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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVI, Issue No. 166

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY AUGUST 22, 2016 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune | 75¢

Sacrifice worth it for Pagan 'castaways'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former representative Cinta Kaipat, front center, joins members of the group that went to Pagan and got stranded for a few days on one of the CNMI's northernmost islands after their arrival at the Saipan seaport.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Celia K. Selepeo and Sylvan Tudela, both part of a 20-member group that became stranded on Pagan for close to a week, said they were glad that no untoward incident happened during their brief "vacation" in one of the CNMI's northernmost islands.

Selepeo and Tudela along with former Pagan residents, AP photojournalist Daniel Lin, representatives from nonprofit group Earthjustice, and other members of environmental organizations went to the island to see firsthand its biodiversity. They went on the nearly 200-nautical mile journey north aboard *Super Emerald*.

Tudela owns Chelu Photos and his staff—Diego Kaipat and Gus Cas-

See PAGAN on Page 4

Federal surveys reinforce status of imperiled coral, sea life in lagoon

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental Quality on Friday concurred with recent survey observations from federal biologists revealing wide spread coral death in the Saipan lagoon and ongoing coral bleaching.

The local environmental agency points to warming sea surface temperatures as the likely causes.

This month, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine ecologists Matt Kendall and Bryan Costa completed a two-week survey on the Saipan lagoon, covering about 550 dive spots where they recorded high resolution video and observed the state of coral, sea grass, and bottom life there.

Kendall says that most of the staghorn coral they saw were dead.

"Ninety percent of it, especially, in the Wing Beach and Sugar Dock area is dead. And the 10 percent that is left, is bleached."

"That's not good," he added. This means if bleaching is severe, the

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Benavente steps down from MVA board

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Benavente

Vicky Benavente has stepped down from her post as board member of the Marianas Visitors Authority, but said she would still be very much involved in the tourism industry.

Benavente was one of three new MVA board directors that got elected in the general membership meeting last June.

Benavente, who received the most number of votes, will now be working at the Governor's Office starting today. She will still be involved in tourism as chairperson of the Marianas Tourism Educational Council.

She informed the MVA board about her resignation in last Friday's meeting at the MVA office in San Jose. She will submit her formal letter of resignation within the week and allow the board to look for her replacement.

MVA board member Jerry Tan, who was reelected in the general

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INSIDE

LOCAL

Job opportunities were abundant as a job fair was held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Thursday by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

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NATION

Flood-weary residents cleaned out houses Saturday as search parties went door to door looking for survivors or bodies trapped.

PAGE 16

WORLD

A bomb attack targeting an outdoor wedding party in southeastern Turkey killed at least 30 people and wounded 94 others.

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Local

Festival of Cultures kicks off despite rain

The 2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures, organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority, pushed through despite the nasty rain last Saturday at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan. Starting at 5pm, the festival aimed to bring together the multicultural community of the CNMI.

Aside from the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian cultures, others cultures were also present in the festivities, among them were that of Japan, Tahiti, and the Philippines. The festival would be on every Saturday of the week, until the last Saturday of September. More international cultures would be joining the festivities in the weeks to come.

The Festival of Cultures featured Many Chamorro and Carolinian dances. The Philippines also presented their "Tinikling," a dance that has gained popularity since the Spanish era. The Chamorro presented the Få'I chant, a chant used by the ancient Chamorro while preparing rice.

Food from other countries were also present during the festivities. Japanese food, such as katsudon (fried breaded pork cutlet), gyoza (Japanese style dumplings), takoyaki (a ball-shaped Japanese delicacy made of flour based batter mixed with minced vegetables and octopus), and Japanese-style burger steak, to name a few, were sold at the event. Filipino cuisine was presented by Chow Time, with owner Anna Liza Guancia personally serving the food, for Filipinos pining for a taste of home.

Corn Soup, red rice, and barbeque—among the native delicacies—were also served during the festival.

The Festival of Cultures would be ongoing every Saturday of the week. Aug. 20 and 27 and Sept. 3, 10, 17, and 24. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

ERWIN ENCINARES

Filipino performers doing the Tinikling dance for the tourists

ERWIN ENCINARES

A young spectator poses for a picture while seemingly overjoyed by the *higai* (coconut leaf) head band made by one of the Carolinian performers.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Chamorro dancers pose for a photo after impressing the tourists and other festival-goers with native Chamorro dances and chants.

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DC committee staff meet with SEDC

By JILLIAN L. ANGELINE
CORRESPONDENT

Tan Holdings vice president Alex Sablan discussed with *Saipan Tribune* the purpose of a meeting with visiting congressional delegation staffers of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee held last week at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

Sablan described the meeting as lasting about an hour and 20 minutes.

"Basically we spent the time giving them a rundown of what's happening on the ground here with respect to the economy overall, gave them an historical perspective of where we were, with the apparel industry, as far back as the apparel industry, what happened, that timeline and its demise and what occurred after its demise."

The discussion of the timeline led to the current contract worker cap crisis, as the Commonwealth continues to see an exodus of CW-1 workers whose visas expired in the last few months.

Sablan says the focus at this point is to get the increase in the CW-1 cap as quickly as possible in an attempt to diffuse the situation of losing about 3,400 contract workers by the end of the year. "If we could get it to 18,000 and a recognition for 2017 that we have this new quota, then hopefully we could get deferment for these individuals, keep them here on the ground."

Last July, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced H.R. 5888 aiming to extend the contract worker phase out deadline and increase the cap. The bill includes a request to extend the federally mandated immigration phase out deadline from 2019 to 2029. The legislation does increase the cap to 18,000 contract workers from the current numerical limit of 12,999. H.R. 5888 also calls for foreign workers to be paid the prevailing wage, a little higher than the minimum wage in the CNMI.

"We laid out the current crisis of losing roughly 1,300 workers in this fiscal year and what is going to be about 3,400 of operational people when the dust settles at the end of the year because 7,000 construction workers are replacing these individuals in the quota cap," Sablan said, referring to the airport meeting last week.

Delegate Sablan's office said Congressional staffers Marc Alberts, Brian Modeste, and Matt Strickler "responded positively to our request and were able to spend over an hour of their short time on Saipan listening to the representatives of leading business groups."

Members of the CNMI Strategic Economic Development Council include representatives from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Society of Human Resource Management, and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

In responding to an inquiry about the status of an administrative fix or a short term solution to the contract worker cap crisis, Sablan tells *Saipan Tribune*, "There's really no hope for any major administrative fix that could defer the impacted without a quota increase, so at this stage the only solution is to get the quota increase and try to save a bunch of these jobs from leaving the Commonwealth."

Delegate Sablan has been talking with Rob Bishop, the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, about scheduling an oversight hearing "on recent developments in the Marianas economy and how federal policy affects our ability to grow," according to

See DC on Page 4

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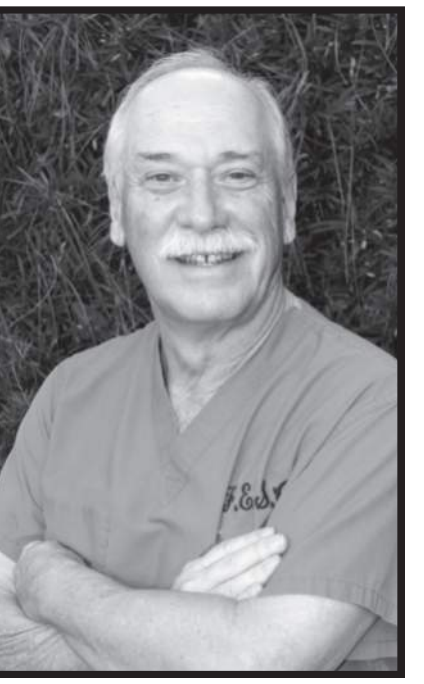

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Man with ADHD gets time served for threatening to kill mother with machete

Jason De Castro Yamada, a 21-year-old man who has an attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and accused of threatening to kill his mother with a machete and physically abusing his younger brother, last week entered a guilty plea and was slapped with a prison term of one year, eight months, and five days.

Yamada signed a plea agreement with the government and pleaded guilty on Thursday to the offense of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio accepted Yamada's guilty plea and sentenced him to five years imprisonment, all suspended except one year, eight months, and five days for time served.

It means that the defendant will not serve more prison term. Yamada has been in custody since Dec. 13, 2014. He was placed on supervised probation for five years.

Among the conditions imposed is that Yamada shall maintain mental health treatment on outpatient basis or inpatient basis as recommended by the Commonwealth Health Center's psychiatrist/doctor immediately upon release.

The defendant is not allowed to possess or consume any alcoholic beverages during the probationary period. He was ordered to pay a $500 fine at a rate of $10 per month.

The court dismissed the remaining charges as part of the plea agreement.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, Yamada threatened his mother with a machete in his hand on Nov. 16, 2016 on Saipan.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government. Assistant public defender Michael Sato served as counsel for Yamada.

Detective Norman L. Skilling stated in his report that two police officers responded to a disturbing the peace incident at a residence in Dandan on Nov. 16 at 8:55am.

Skilling said Yamada's mother told the officers that her son was harassing her while holding a machete.

The mother said Yamada fled the scene after she ran to the neighbor's house to call the police.

The mother disclosed that Yamada has been diagnosed with ADHD but refused to take medication.

Yamada also would allegedly punch and kick his younger brother because he thinks that their mother is favoring the younger child. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

FEDERAL

From Page 1

coral will probably die. And if the bleaching does not kill the coral, a burst of disease usually hits a few months after bleaching occurs.

"That kills a lot of coral too, if the bleaching doesn't do it," Kendall said in a recent interview.

On Friday, BECQ said bleaching events in 2013 and 2014 caused the majority of the death.

BECQ lead biologist Lyza Johnston said these events as well as the current bleaching are due to "warmer than usual sea surface temperatures."

She added, though, that other local stressors like polluted runoff, physical damage (anchors, stepping on the corals), sedimentation, and overfishing can reduce the resilience of the corals—making them more susceptible to broader scale disturbances like bleaching from thermal stress.

"So we need to try to reduce or eliminate as many of the stressors as possible to keep the reefs healthy so they have a chance to bounce back from disturbances," Johnston said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Johnston said BECQ has also observed the same patterns as the NOAA biologists.

After the 2013/14 bleaching, she said, BECQ recorded a loss of 85 percent of staghorn corals at their long-term monitoring sites in the lagoon.

The agency, she said, will be going out in the next few weeks to assess the current bleaching, which seems to be restricted to the lagoon at this point.

"These [recent] storms and cloudy weather have actually been really good for the coral as it has caused a drop in water temperatures and sunlight. So hopefully it won't be as bad as was predicted earlier in the summer when we thought we would start seeing widespread bleaching by the end of August."

Habitat harmed

Kendall said that even the coral survives the bleaching and disease, they may not grow or reproduce as fast.

For the 90 percent of dead staghorn seen, Kendall says there are still standing coral, and not broken down into rubble yet.

"What happen is, sponges and other organism burrow in there, algae puts in little roots, organism bore into it to make their homes, waves come along and break that coral skeleton and you still have these complex thicket of branches where fish and other organism like to live—all of it breaks down and gets flat. And that's a total different habitat that is not great for a lot of the fish that need to hide in those branching areas of the coral," Kendall said.

Kendall also said they were surprised to find large swaths of cyanobacteria in the lagoon, where otherwise they expected plain sand.

The NOAA biologists drew on maps from biologist Peter Houk some 10 years ago for their initial drafts of the lagoon.

They hope to finish their high resolution mapping replete with depth and other features by the end of the year, to make it public by early next year.

The previous maps, for one, did not show large swaths of algae that the biologists say covered a large area in the lagoon.

"We swam down there and it was this algal mat…It covered huge areas. It's not a good thing. It's a sign of too much nutrients in the water. It's a sign that something is not right. What it tends to do is kind of smother everything and does not leave enough room [for life] to grow," Kendall said.

'Lagoon use mapping plan'

All the recently recorded data will go toward helping BECQ's "lagoon use mapping plan."

Big picture in mind, BECQ and NOAA are working really closely to understand "what's out there and how it's changed" since the last time the lagoon was mapped some 10 years ago, Kendall said.

The biologists aim to get more spatially resolved maps, or extremely detailed and precise maps of the lagoon's bottom.

PAGAN

From Page 1

tro—went with him to Pagan to film the documentary "Too Beautiful To Bomb." They envision the documentary would promote Pagan and raise awareness to protest the U.S. military's plans of creating a live fire training range facility.

The group left Saipan on Aug. 10 and was supposed to be back on Aug. 13 but strong winds and heavy rain caused by tropical storms Conson and Chanthu delayed their trip back. The low pressure area and the monsoon flow also added to their problems.

"Keli [Tenorio] who was in charge of the trip was in constant communication with her husband Norman on Saipan. The winds started picking up so we discussed and decided to stay put to wait the storm out," Selepeo told *Saipan Tribune.*

"*Super Emerald* captain Bob Taguchi was forced to cut the anchor out and moved to the other side of the island to find shelter. We thought that we're going to lose the boat but there was no mishap. The boat [captain] tried to find shelter and [they] hid there for a couple of days," said Selepeo, who added their only line of communication was Lin's satellite phone.

She said Lin, Earthjustice, and another group from California were surprised to see how beautiful Pagan was. "We went up there to show them where the military wants to make exercises. They learned that pagan is a beautiful place."

"We're going to try to do whatever we can to fight for Pagan. We're going to make sacrifices for her since she's for the people. It was a never tiring adventure and we all get together and laughed every night," added Selepeo.

Tudela, meanwhile, said he and his documentary crew worked for two days in getting footage that would help them piece together the documentary. "We shot most of our footage in the first two days. We set up everything the first day."

"Once we settled down, we did some drone shots on the two lagoon beaches. The next day we went out and hiked to different parts of the islands with Gus Castro as one of our guides," added Tudela, who is the documentary's director of photography. A nonprofit group is funding the documentary.

Rain, rain, and more rain

Tudela said they took refuge at Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan's house where they had to board up the windows and fix the door to keep them dry from the pouring rain. "The first night we were outside and kind of weathered the first part of the rain."

"The next day, it was not getting better, and we decided we should get inside the house. When the rains stopped the following day, we fixed the house since the windows don't have any covers and the door was open. We worked to shield us from the rain."

He added that the tarp that they brought was not enough to keep them dry. "Our biggest problem was the rain, and there were lots of it. The first two days was kind of okay but it got worst after that."

They collected rainwater using their empty water bottles since they were running low on drinkable water, other people caught wild pigs for food, and other members of the group cut wood and prepared the meat to smoke it.

MV *Luta* to rescue us

Selepeo said Norman Tenorio tried his best to find another ship or any vessel that was big enough to travel under the bad weather and rescue them in Pagan.

He got a hold of Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog and asked him if he could talk to the U.S. Coast Guard to allow the cargo vessel MV *Luta* to set sail and pick up the group.

"Norman's plan went smoothly. The MV *Luta* was given clearance as the weather improved. We were picked up on Aug. 18 and got back on Saipan on Aug. 19," said Selepeo.

"We're very thankful for all their help and dedication to keep us safe. Their effort to send a ship that would sail despite the bad weather is truly good thing. We are very thankful to the crew of MV *Luta*," she added.

BENAVENTE

From Page 1

membership meeting held at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall, along with Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Gloria Cavanagh and Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa will be meeting anytime soon to choose Benavente's replacement.

According to the MVA bylaws, the three remaining board directors that were elected will decide who will replace a fellow director that resigned. They will then get in touch with the person and ask if he or she wants the post.

Tan said although the board was saddened by Benavente's decision, it has also a positive side since there will be somebody with a long experience on tourism at the Governor's Office. They will wait for her letter before discussing who would replace her.

Benavente returned to the MVA after serving as its managing director more than 10 years ago. She was also the executive administrative assistant to Pacific Islands Club general manager Hiro Sugie.

"She had not submitted yet her formal letter of resignation and after that, we will meet sooner than later because we want to have a full board," Tan told *Saipan Tribune* after last Friday's board meeting.

He added that he is hoping to sit down with Cvanagh and Nishikawa to discuss Benavente's replacement. "Hopefully, we get to meet within the next two weeks and decide on who will replace her. "We have no names in mind yet. But we're going to discuss that in the meeting."

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion and chair Marian Aldan-Pierce informed the three remaining elected board directors that the replacement could be anybody and not particularly among the names that ran in the election last June.

Tan said that they would review all possible candidates. "Either one of those on the list but we can consider anybody. There are 14 who ran and we're going to look at the list and maybe approach them but MVA said we can name anybody."

DC

From Page 3

Delegate Sablan's office. Delegate Sablan is also asking Bishop to travel to the CNMI.

Alex Sablan says while a date has not been confirmed for the hearing, a group will be invited to speak in Washington, D.C. sometime within the next month. The SEDC member says those invited will speak both for and against the legislation.

Sablan also says the SEDC members and congressional delegation staffers discussed the issues surrounding both the minimum wage and prevailing wage for professional positions in the Commonwealth. He told *Saipan Tribune* it's important to have a billboard of competition for jobs so those considering coming back home to the Commonwealth "can utilize this as a benchmark to what they perceive as an opportunity to returning."

On May 20, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced they reached the CW-1 cap through petitions received up until May 5. Business leaders determined there are about 1,300 foreign workers whose status expires between May 5 and Oct. 1 this year. This data does not include family members, according to a joint resolution released by the groups in June.

MVA agrees on sanctions for tourists violating traffic laws

The Marianas Visitors Authority supports issuing sanctions on tourists who violate the CNMI's traffic laws following a recent incident that had tourists driving their rental cars to the beach with the vehicles ultimately being stuck on the sand, eventually requiring police assistance.

"Driving on the beach is illegal. Regardless of who drives on to the beach, [he or she] should be sanctioned," said MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce.

"We think everyone who violates CNMI law should be punished accordingly. It's the fair thing to do," agreed Concepcion.

The MVA even stresses that it is the responsibility of car rental companies to educate tourists when it comes to laws in the CNMI. "It is the responsibility of the car rental companies to ensure their customers are aware of the rules of the road," said Concepcion. "We've reached out to our partners in the car rental industry to encourage them to beef up their requirements before renting to foreigners. This is something we'll continue to do going forward. "

Aldan-Pierce even added that car rental companies should be giving out pamphlets and other reading material for the tourists to learn before renting a car out to them. "They [car rental companies] should have pamphlets that outline what our basic driving laws are. Unfortunately, I do not believe this is being done," said Aldan-Pierce.

Aldan-Pierce also addresses the possible threats to others that the tourists present. "Tourists who rent cars create potentially dangerous situations because they take selfies as they are driving; they stop in the middle of the road to take photos; when they pull over road shoulders, usually half of the car is still on the road, and the list goes on."

Not only harmful to the community, the tourists could potentially be driving into turtle nesting grounds, and other ecologically important sites.

Concepcion thinks that even the Saipan Chamber of Commerce should come in to control the tourists' actions and minimize damage. "Maybe the Chamber of Commerce should get their members involved as well," said Concepcion. "I think this incident is an important lesson for car rental companies, law enforcement agencies, community members and our partners in the tourism industry. We must work together to tackle the issue before it gets totally out of control."

Concepcion said that law enforcement officers in the CNMI must look at what neighboring islands are doing to prevent such incidents. "Law enforcers should study what's being done in Hawaii or Guam or elsewhere in the U.S. to see what they're doing to enhance traffic laws on transient persons."

"The MVA offers our full support to the parties involved so we can work together rather than everyone doing something different," added Concepcion. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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REVISED
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-16-016

TYPHOON SOUDELOR PERMANENT RESTORATION PROJECT
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SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for the Typhoon Soudelor Permanent Restoration Project for CUC Power Plant Nos. 1 and 2, located at Lower Base and No. 4, located at Puerto Rico, Saipan, CNMI.

The Contractor shall provide and pay for all labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation, temporary construction of every nature, and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A **mandatory pre-proposal conference** will be conducted at the CUC Power Plant Administration Building in Lower Base, Saipan on **August 16, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., ChST.** Immediately after the conference, Site Visits to Power Plant facilities will be arranged. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID.

One (1) original and Five (6) hard copies and 1 Compact Disc (CD) of the entire submission in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC RFP-16-016 Typhoon Soudelor Permanent Restoration Project, CUC Power Plants 1, 2, and 4*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 31, 2016.** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

The awarded Proposer will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – https://marianaslabor.net/.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 19, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation APCM/PM via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/ MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-16-018

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

1. *OMB Circular A-133*
2. *Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States*
3. *Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)*

The date of contract award will be no later than September 15, 2016. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-16-018, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2016"to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on September 9, 2016.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 26, 2016** to Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 with a copy to Joann Paraiso, CUC Acting Chief Financial Officer, via email address joanne.paraiso@cucgov.org and Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

JAMES SIROK
Acting Executive Director

MANUEL B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

CUC board to CFO: Update all accounts

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board has advised acting chief finance officer Joan Paraiso to review and update the accounts of some government agencies that still have unpaid balances. Paraiso made her financial report in last week's regular board meeting at the CUC conference room at the Joeten Dandan Building.

Paraiso, in her report, told the CUC board the list of government agencies and departments that still need to settle their debt. Some agencies or departments on the list, however, no longer exists or had been merged with other departments as pointed out by Commonwealth Development Authority representative Ignacio Perez.

The said agencies were merged, no longer exists, or have been renamed by an executive order and public law passed by the Legislature.

These include the Marianas Islands Housing Authority, Division of Public Lands, Coastal Resources Management, Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund, and Credit Union Office still have unsettled bills with CUC.

MIHA, for one, has been renamed to the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. while DPL, which initially was a division under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, became a separate agency in 2006 after then governor Benigno R. Fitial signed House Bill 15-57 that turned into PL 15-2.

PL 15-2 also abolished the Marianas Public Lands Authority with the former autonomous agency falling under the control of the Department of Public Lands.

The Coastal Resources Management merged with the Division of Environmental Quality to become the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, while the NMIRF turned into the NMI Settlement Fund. CUO, on the other hand, is an agency that no longer exists.

However, the total amount that CUC would collect on some of the said agencies was not released with Paraiso still needing to check their respective billing statements. In general, CUC still has a total of $37,889,323 to collect in unpaid utility bills from the CNMI government.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., based on CUC's accounts receivables as of July 31, is on top of the list with $20,236,580 followed by the $7,017,085 from the CNMI central government. The CNMI Public School System has an outstanding balance of $5,389,616, but based on its memorandum of agreement with CUC only needs to pay $60,312.

Other government agencies owe CUC $5,246,042. CUC also has $4,279,092 to collect from its residential consumers, while commercial establishments have a balance of $3,936,588.

Ex-convict released to ex-lawmaker stepfather

Herman P. Santos, an ex-convict who was indicted in federal court for alleged possession of two firearms and ammunition at separate incidents on Saipan in December 2015 and in June 2016, was freed last week upon posting $1,000 in secured bond.

At a detention hearing, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied the U.S. government's motion to place Santos under continued detention.

Manglona allowed defendant's release upon posting $1,000 secured bond and to the custody of his mother and stepfather, former representative Christopher Leon Guerrero.

Defense counsel Robert T. Torres called Leon Guerrero to the witness stand. Leon Guerrero is also a retired police officer.

Among the many bail conditions require Santos to submit to drug testing if required by the pretrial services office or supervising officer, participate to location monitoring, and no use or possession of any controlled substances.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe argued for the U.S. government's motion.

The indictment charged Santos with two counts of felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Santos is also known as Hermanny Palacios Santos, Hermany Palacios Santos, and Jr. Santos.

According to the indictment, Santos, having been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term of exceeding one year, knowingly possessed a Harrington and Richardson model 732 .32 caliber revolver and three rounds of .32 caliber ammunition, on Dec. 6, 2015.

Santos was also allegedly found in possession of a Savage Arms Model 24 410/22 "over and under" firearm and 11 rounds of .22 ammunition and two .410 shotgun shells, on June 3, 2016.

According to Superior Court records, the Dec. 6, 2015 incident stemmed from the arrest of Santos for allegedly pointing a handgun at two men he accused of beating up his father, Leon Guerrero, at a poker establishment in Garapan.

Police officers later checked the back of Santos' house, where they recovered a .32 revolver handgun with three bullets in the cylinder. That same day, Dec. 6, police arrested him.

In January 2016, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho dismissed without prejudice the amended information charging Santos with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, upon the Office of the Attorney General's request.

Dismiss without prejudice means the government may re-file the case in the future. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

(1) General Maintenance Worker
High school diploma or GED certificate or any combination of education, training, and experience which demonstrates ability to perform carpentry, plumbing, glass replacement, painting, masonry, grounds keeping, appliance repair, and electrical wiring; standard practices and use a variety of hand and power tools used in the maintenance and repair of building facilities, and cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects, willing to work flexible hours which may include holidays and weekends.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, August 31, 2016.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

VA Benefits outreach on Aug. 31

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration (non-health) will be conducting a Veterans Benefits Outreach this Aug. 31, 2016, from 9am to 3pm at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic, MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan.

A VA Benefits counselor will be available to answer Benefits questions, and assist with the claim process.

Points of contact are Ruth Coleman at 322-0035 or Chris Duenas at 1-671-648-0090/93. ***(PR)***

Hocog vetoes bill to prohibit leases for live-fire training

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog on Friday vetoed a bill that would have prohibited the Department of Public Lands from entering into a lease for any military live fire or bombing activity.

The acting governor, in his Aug. 20 veto message, said the bill "contains a major constitutional deficiency."

Other than the lease prohibition, Senate Bill 19-42, SSI, HDI, authored by Sen. Arnold Palacios, would have also required any public lease for any other military activity to be ratified by Northern Marianas Descent voters.

Hocog cited this requirement in explaining the constitutional deficiency.

He said in all likelihood the bill would not sustain a legal challenge on the requirement that only NMD voters may vote on a question of whether a public land lease for non-live for or bombing activity with the United States military may be approved.

"Neither the Covenant nor the Commonwealth," Hocog wrote, "carves out an exception to voter eligibility for questions involving public land leases."

"We must make sure that we are not forbidden by our constitution and laws when we decide on voter eligibility pertaining to this subject," he added. "For these reasons, I am compelled to disapprove SB 19-42."

Hocog, to close his letter, also reminded the Legislature that the CNMI and the U.S. are engaged in "902 talks," or executive branch consultation, pursuant to the Covenant. Hocog noted that, "the centerpiece of the talks is the issue of the military's expanded activities in the Commonwealth."

Palacios' bill, in its findings, noted how the CNMI Covenant made CNMI properties available to the U.S. military defense training. These were leases on Tinian and Saipan and the entire Farallon de Medinilla and its surrounding waters.

The bill notes, however, that FDM and its surrounding waters have been devastated and severely and permanently damaged as a result of the military bombing and training activities.

The bill says the Commonwealth did not anticipate such destruction, on both land and sea, when they negotiated the lease.

"With the scarce amount of land mass in the CNMI, it is imperative that our government preserve the remaining lands in the CNMI for future generations," the bill states

The Department of Defense currently proposes to house a series of live-fire training complexes on Tinian inclusive for grenade, tank, pistol, and mortar activity.

They also propose to the lease of the entire island of Pagan for live fire training, inclusive of aerial bombing the island.

The training proposals come as part of the "CNMI Joint Military Training" project, which is still undergoing environmental review process after a chorus of public agencies balked at the deficiencies in the military's environmental impact statement last year.

CEC's Villagomez acting as executive director for more than a year now

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Without a legal counsel's opinion, the Commonwealth Election Commission didn't act during its board meeting last week on whether to appoint acting CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez to the post permanently.

Villagomez

The CEC board of commissioners decided to seek a legal opinion first as to whether the board has authority to appoint an executive director.

Villagomez has been serving as acting CEC executive director since 2014. She has been employed with CEC for 28 years now. Villagomez first worked at CEC as an administrative assistant in 1988, then she became an administrative officer.

» Commissioners to seek legal opinion whether they can select the executive director

At CEC's board meeting, CEC board chair Frances M. Sablan said when the executive director's position was vacated after Robert Guerrero was then-appointed as Department of Corrections commissioner in early 2015, she went ahead on behalf of CEC by appointing Villagomez as the acting executive director.

"There was a question of whether or not we need to go through the process of announcing the position and all of that," she said.

Sablan said she consulted with the governor at that time and they chose to make Villagomez continue serving on an acting capacity.

The chairwoman said the question needs to be brought up to their legal counsel whoever he or she is, to find out what is the proper process.

"Do we need to go through the announcement, the standard operating procedures of any vacancies?" Sablan said.

She pointed out that the other concern is whether the commissioners as a board has the authority to go ahead and bypass that SOP.

"That's my question. That's my concern," she noted.

Sablan said Villagomez has been in the acting executive director's position for more than a year now and they need to solidify whether or not she is interested in the position and whether they have authority to appoint her.

CEC commissioner Jesus I. Sablan of Saipan recommended that they seek legal counsel to make sure they are in compliance with the law.

Chair Frances Sablan and the three other commissioners agreed that there is a need to get a legal opinion before acting on the matter.

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Featuring all you can eat of Rib Eye Steaks cook to your likings with all you can drink of Wines and Beers.
$29.00/Adult | $15.00/Child
Sunday Brunch Buffet
11:00am to 2:00pm
Featuring Roast Prime Ribs, Roast Pig, Sashimi,Sushi bar with all you can drink of Sparkling wines and Beers.
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Daily Theme Lunch Buffet
11:00 to 2:00pm
$15.00/Adult | $8.00/Child
MONDAY

Authentic Chinese with Hot Pots
TUESDAY

Italian Seafood Stew & Pasta Station
WEDNESDAY

Korean with Bibimbap
THURSDAY

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FRIDAY

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SATURDAY

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-020

ROTA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Rota Water Supply Project, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of the demolition of existing bldg. structure, fence, pipes, valves, including appurtenances, installation of new 6-inch, 8-inch, & 10-inch PVC water line complete with necessary valves and fittings, construction of new three wells bldg., chlorination building, booster pump building, the relocation and replacement of two existing pressure reducing valves (PRV's), the installation of a new PRV, and several reconfigurations of the existing water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on August 25, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-16-020, Rota Water Supply Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 14, 2016**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 29, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, CUC Chief Engineer-Water/Wastewater-john.riegel@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Support Assistant– marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

JAMES SIROK
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Senate holds hearing on Board of Regents nominees

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations held a hearing on the credentials of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog's nominations to the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents.

The two nominees, Irene Torres and Michael Evangelista, bring crucial expertise to the college.

Torres, with experience as a financial aid specialist at NMC and a former accountant and compliance officer of the Department of Public Lands and the Commonwealth Ports Authority, will offer much needed accounting and financial compliance for the college if confirmed by the Senate.

As an attorney, Michael Evangelista brings a wealth of legal background experience and guidance.

Both were said to be analytical, detail oriented, and passionate toward helping the Northern Marianas College as alumni and in their respective fields.

Torres stated that NMC has come along way and is proud to be a product and a part of its progress.

Evangelista expressed that serving on the Board of Regents fulfills a sense of duty to the college in which he hopes to ensure still remains accessible and affordable. He stated that if confirmed, he is committed to formulating and streamlining policy, accreditation, and helping post-secondary education for students of Tinian and Rota become more accessible. ***(PR)***

CUC to construct new generator building in East Garapan

Commonwealth Utilities Corp's contractor will be conducting demolition operations of the existing generator building near the corner of Cpl. Derence Jack Road and Beach Road in East Garapan starting, today, Aug. 22, until Sunday, Aug, 28 from 8am to 7pm.

Aside from demolishing the old structure, Fanter Corp. will be constructing a new generator building, called Lift Station S4 Generator Building, for the CUC wastewater system during the seven-day construction period.

While construction activities are underway, traffic will be delayed and parking within the Right-Of-Way (ROW) adjacent to the S4 Generator Building will be closed. Furthermore, the ROW where the proposed generator building would be located will restrict entrance and exit at the backside of Asia Rent Car. There will also be construction related noise for most of the construction period.

CUC appreciates the public's patience and cooperation. It regrets any inconvenience, which will be caused by this construction. CUC urges motorists and pedestrians to avoid this area unless necessary and use extreme caution when traveling in the construction zone.

For further information, call the following:

■ Project contractor: Steve Qian, USA Fanter Corporation - 234-5828

■ Project owner: Dennis Fung, Worldside Asia Engineering - 285-0072

■ Project manager: Ian Mar Ramos, Hofschneider Engineering Corp. - 234-2362

Water outage on Tinian

CUC would also like to inform the residents of Tinian that there will be a scheduled island-wide water outage this Saturday, Aug. 27, from 8am to 5pm due to a major damage on the main distribution waterline at Marpo Valley.

Should you need additional information, please call 433-9261/9264/9265. Your understanding is greatly appreciated. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-021

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PRESTRESSED CONCRETE POWER POLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Prestressed Concrete Power Poles for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from FEMA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-16-021, Supply & Delivery of Prestressed Concrete Power Poles"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 21, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 6, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Joseph Crisostomo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email address- joe.crisostomo@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-022

LIFT STATION RENOVATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Lift Station Renovation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the renovation and upgrade of the S-6, S-10, SR-1, and A-7 Sewer Lift Stations.

The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work includes rehabilitation of wet wells, valve vaults, a bar screen and flow monitor vault, removal of existing pumps, pipes, fittings and appurtenances, installation of new pumps, guide rails, control panels, pipes and fittings, installation of a new fence and gate, the installation and operation of a temporary wastewater bypass system, and other related work.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **August 30, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.7, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

ONE (1) original and FIVE (5) hard copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-16-022, Lift Station Renovation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 16, 2016**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.
Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 1, 2016** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, W/WW Chief Engineer via email address-john.riegel@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez , W/WW Junior Engineer via email address-nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, Birhen Martinez, W/WW Senior Engineer via email address-birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

JAMES SIROK
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Supreme Court affirms conviction of restaurant robber

The Supreme Court of the CNMI has affirmed the conviction of Maximo SN. Muna for armed robbery, theft, criminal contempt, and disturbing the peace in an order that came out last Aug. 18.

On appeal, Muna argued the trial court erred by failing to give an instruction warning the jury to consider accomplice testimony with greater care and caution. He also argued his trial attorney's failure to request the cautionary accomplice instruction constituted ineffective assistance of counsel.

On Oct. 4, 2012, a masked man wearing military fatigues and carrying a machete robbed the poker room at J's Restaurant in Gualo Rai. Anthony Aldan was waiting outside in a getaway vehicle. But when Aldan saw people fleeing J's, he panicked and drove away without the robber. Meanwhile, the robber successfully fled the scene. Later, police interviewed Aldan in connection with the robbery. Aldan confessed and implicated Muna in the robbery.

At trial, Aldan testified that Muna was the robber. According to Aldan, Muna had been staking out J's Restaurant and suggested robbing it. Two restaurant employees testified they had seen Muna at the restaurant several times prior to the robbery. One employee testified he saw Muna wearing military fatigues and that on one occasion Muna suggested robbing the place. On cross-examination, Muna's attorney questioned Aldan extensively. Aldan admitted that he participated in the robbery, was afraid of going to jail and losing his family, and that the detectives offered to try to help him during his interview. At no point during trial did Muna's attorney request a special jury instruction concerning accomplice testimony.

After reviewing the law in other jurisdictions, the Supreme Court concluded the trial court had no independent duty to issue a cautionary accomplice instruction when no such instruction was requested. Furthermore, the court found no ineffective assistance of counsel because there was not a reasonable probability that trial counsel's failure to request the cautionary accomplice instruction affected the outcome of the trial. Particularly, there was significant circumstantial evidence corroborating Aldan's testimony, the trial court gave a general credibility instruction, and trial counsel extensively attacked Aldan's credibility on cross-examination. Consequently, the court upheld Muna's conviction.

The court's full opinion is available at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme16.html.

For further information, contact the Supreme Court at 236-9715. ***(PR)***

Labor: Poker attendant not wrongfully terminated

The Department of Labor said Gina A. Gamboa failed to prove wrongful termination/breach of contract in her complaint against his former employer, K-Amusement Corp.

Gamboa filed a labor complaint in September 2015 against K-Amusement for wrongful termination/breach of contract.

In July 2015, a staff of K-Amusement visited Gamboa's hometown in the Philippines and the two parties entered into an employment contract.

K-Amusement then petitioned Gamboa under CW-1 status as a poker attendant and it was granted on Aug. 26, 2015. Gamboa began working for K-Amusement on Sept. 1, 2015 with her CW-1 status scheduled to expire on Feb. 19, 2016.

Gamboa worked for one week without any problems but on Sept. 8, 2015, she was allegedly told by her employer "not to report to work" the next day even when she was scheduled to work that whole week.

Gamboa did not work on Sept. 8, 2015 and the next day, she filed a labor complaint citing wrongful termination.

Hearing officer Jerry Cody finds that the facts said by Gamboa do not justify her conclusion that she has been terminated. "Employee's assumption that she had been terminated on Sept. 8, 2015, was unreasonable, based on the factual circumstances."

In addition, "assuming that employee's version of events is true, the statement did not rise to the level of threat or harassment and one uneventful week or work did not create any situation that could be described as "intolerable" for Gamboa.

Cody finds that Gamboa presented insufficient evidence to prove wrongful termination. Judgment is entered in favor of K-Amusement and against Gamboa with respect to this labor claim. ***(Joan L. Taitano)***

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

Air Force, Navy to conduct training at FDM, W-517

ASAN, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Aug. 22 and 24 from noon to 11pm
- Aug. 23 from 11:30am to 11pm
- Aug. 25 from 10am to 9pm
- Aug. 26 from 7:30am to 4pm

The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) Aug. 24 from noon to 10pm.

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon, located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, provide sufficient room to conduct the many training profiles required to support aircrew combat readiness requirements.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

ALTER CITY GROUP

Alter City Group, Inc. is seeking for trusted individuals who is willing to take care responsibilities and challenges. Accepting qualified workers to apply for the following positions to be part of our team:

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Duties: The role is responsible for the overall design & implementation polices coordination and evaluation of the human resource and administration functions. Perform in the area of staffing, compensation and benefit, performance management, employee relations, orientation, policy/procedure & budgeting, etc. Perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor Degree in HR or related field, with minimum 10 years of related working experience.
- Solid knowledge of US employment law, regulations and statutes
- Strong excel skill, dashboard and marcro would be an advantage.
- Applicants must be authorized to work in the US and its territories.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Duties: The role is responsible for providing responsible, confidential and complex secretarial assignments for the Executive office. Follows up on contacts and perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor degree required;
- Minimum of 5 years related experience;
- Strong computer literacy (MS Office, Excel, PowerPoint). Excellent organizational skills

COST ACCOUNTANT/ANALYST

Job Duties: Planning and collecting data to determine costs of construction; implement and apply cost accounting policies; monitors the detailed construction progress to ensure work plans are within agreed budget and resources; analyzing audits of costs and preparing reports; providing management with reports specifying and comparing factors affecting prices and profitability of products or services; conducts physical inventories and monitors cycle count program; prepare accurate daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College degree in Accounting or Finance.
- A minimum of 5 years in Cost Accounting in a construction or real estate field.
- Must have a strong Cost systems background and have excellent analytical skills; sound understanding of accounting principles.
- Computer Literate – Experienced in the use of Sage 50 Accounting System, Strong Excel skills and the ability to use Word and Power Point

COMMUNICATION OFFICER

Job Duties: Responsible for the public relations aspect within an organization. Writes and delivers press releases and handles all communication to the public. Develop branding initiatives, internal communications and external media relations. Develop strong relationships with media reps.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor degree in Public Relations, Journalism, Digital Marketing, Advertising or related disciplines
- A minimum of 5 years of such experience or PR, marketing, or advertising in a sizable organization or consultancy is preferred

PUBLIC RELATIONS EXECUTIVE

Job Duties: This post helps to establish and maintain lines of communication between an organization and its public. Responsible for the handling on correspondences on public liaison, clients, investors, government officials, etc.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College degree required
- A minimum of 3 years of related working experience
- Must be willing to work flexible hours and occasionally travel (overnight/day travel)
- Presentable person

COMPLIANCE MANAGER

Job Duties: Impact analysis and implementation of regulatory changes affecting the real estate and gaming business. Develop and oversee control systems to prevent or deal with violations of legal guidelines and internal policies. Collaborate with all concerned departments to monitor enforcement of standards and regulations. Manage compliances on QC requirements.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor and above in law, finance, business administration or related field.
- Experience of real estate, licensing, gaming, surveillance or equivalent monitoring activity.
- Knowledge of business, commercial, gaming law and government regulations.
- Ability to work both independently and to keep management in other locations up to date, and to work as part of a global team to drive solutions to complex issues.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Duties: Completes a broad variety of general administrative tasks. Compiling documents for all meetings and transcribing all meeting minutes. Manages all communications for the Executive team by screening calls, letters and emails and determines which require priority. Perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- At least High school graduate with strong Microsoft office skill
- Minimum of 4 years related experienced;
- Bilingual in English and Chinese is preferred oral and written
- Must be willing to work flexible hours.
- Occasionally travelling required (overnight/day travel).

Interested applicants are requested to submit resume to Alter City Group, Inc. at ACG Building, Garapan St. or you can mail it to P.O. Box 505110 Saipan, MP 96950 or you can fax to 233-4999. It can be also e-mailed at careers@acgcnmi.com

Opinion

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Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 166
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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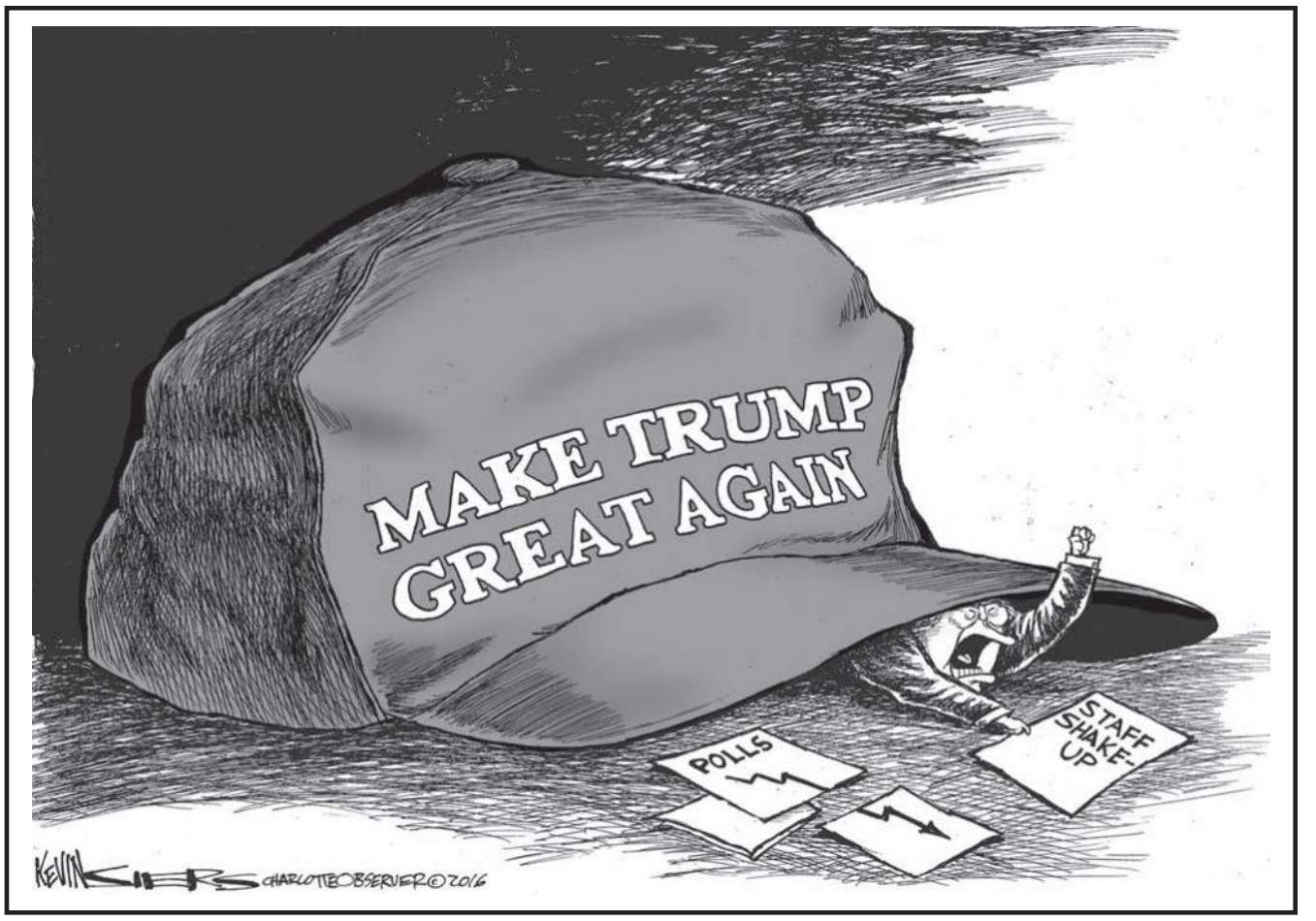


EDITORIAL

When Rio's revelry ends—and reality kicks in

With the Summer Olympics closing ceremony around the corner, are Brazilians raising their caipirinhas or crying in them? There's reason for Rio to revel—the Zika scare has not turned into a Zika crisis. The polluted waters of Guanabara Bay, Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon and along Fort Copacabana haven't induced outbreaks of retching among swimmers, rowers and sailors. Rafaela Silva, a young female judo athlete from Rio's infamous "City of God" favela, gave Brazil its first gold medal of these Games, telling the world, "If I can set an example for the kids in the City of God, if they can believe in their dreams and find them through sport, then do it."

And there's reason for Rio to wince. Vast swaths of empty seats can be found at Olympic venues throughout the city. The diving pool turned a swampy lime green, thanks to a chemical imbalance. And despite the presence of 85,000 soldiers and police, violent crime marred the party, U.S. swimming gold medalist Ryan Lochte's evolving robbery fiasco notwithstanding. Mugging victims have included Portugal's education minister and even the Brazilian government's security chief for major events, who was robbed outside Maracana Stadium.

Soon, though, the acrid whiffs of closing ceremony pyrotechnics will fade in an ocean breeze, surdo drums and samba whistles will go back into closets, and Rio will be in the full grip of an Olympic hangover. As with every rousing soiree, at some point guests stagger out, and the hosts, bags under their eyes, get back to everyday living. In the case of Brazil, however, it may not be the denouement they want.

Brazil's Senate kept the momentum rolling against suspended President Dilma Rousseff with a vote earlier this month to indict her on charges she manipulated the country's budget to mask Brazil's economic woes. The impeachment trial is expected to take place next week. The country's acting president, former Vice President Michel Temer, has failed to make Brazilians believe he's the right helmsman for the myriad crises Brazil faces. Their disdain for him was broadcast around the world during the opening ceremonies, when his introduction drew loud booing throughout Maracana Stadium.

Once one of the world's most promising nations — one of the advancing BRIC economies (Brazil, Russia India, China) of the early 2000s — Brazil is now neck-deep in its worst depression in decades. Like other economies that have natural resources as their fulcrum, Brazil's is flagging because prices of those commodities, including oil, iron ore and beef, have dropped sharply. Brazil's economy declined 4 percent last year, and likely will do the same this year.

Beyond the country's economic troubles lurks its ever-rising crime rate. In Rio de Janeiro, murders are up 7 percent in the first six months this year. City police tallied 10,000 robberies in May alone. Much of the street violence stems from warring between drug gangs in Rio's impoverished favelas. After the Games began, a police officer was

See RIO'S on Next Page

Mango: Spelled c-o-r-r-u-p-t-i-o-n!

As though fatal disunity isn't enough, Republicans have allowed the introduction of legislation that would neutralize integrity in the casino law. It slammed the final nail on its own coffin!

The blatant attempt happened last week. A house republican measure (House Bill 19-195) would repeal casino law provision that prohibits the hiring of legislators and family members at Best Sunshine for at least five years.

It finally shows its true colors founded on greed and the unintended consequence of planting the seed of corruption, self-destruction and the credibility of a controversial industry here.

The approval of policy, including proposed laws by the legislature, is usually intended to benefit a majority of people it represents. The focus normally envisions helping the entire NMI community.

Appalling though the bold and open agenda to derail strengthening of our democratic institutions protecting the innocent. Ever heard of moral values? Shouldn't you use this as your foundation to promote stronger governance? So it's time for you to harvest the fruits of your labor? Talk about the epitome of greed!

There's no doubt in mind that this prompts voters to actively weed out the warp minded beginning this November. Heard a lot of voting students declare, "No Mas!"

From the outset, the intent of the legislation conflicts with the Open Government Act (OGA). The law prohibits legislators or family members benefiting from laws they've worked on as lawmakers. Remember the MV *Luta* case where Biktot Hokog's family benefited from his action? It would seem to me very similar, if not, exactly the same! It's a direct violation of the OGA!

Is it now fashionable that only the politically powerful are at liberty to fill their pockets under the maturing "elite culture? You prep yourselves as to completely ignore that "we the people" also need greater economic freedom? Have you done anything on our behalf?

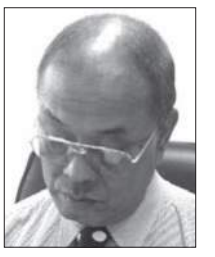
It is no wonder that wherever I roam folks are saying "Enough!" to incumbent Republican legislators. Haven't we learned from the lessons of recent history? It must be new Republican rare mango spelled c-o-r-r-u-p-t-i-o-n!

Arrogance vs public service

Over the years, I've seen how local government managers have used the collar of their office to show "who is the boss" in their grand immaturity. They'd find every legal and administrative excuse to hurl at poor Mr. Public seeking help from the alleged "government of the people, for the people and by the people".

Eggheads in government place greater importance in their authority than coming to terms with the public aspect of their roles. This arrogance and abrasive attitude turns into a huge hurdle for simple Mr. Public (taxpayer) who usually gives up trying after begging for help for too long only to be flatly denied services instantly.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

A perceptive reader reacted with a tongue in cheek view: "Here is a single parent, a mother of two young children ages 10 months and 3 years old. She lives in an apartment paying $350/month rent $150/mo for utilities and not much left for food and other bare essentials for the two kids.

"She hitches a ride every day to work with her brother where she is making $6.50 an hour. She applied for help at the food stamp office for which she was given the run around asking her to go get this and get that. After so much running around without ever seeing at least the dim light at the end of the tunnel, she was FLATLY DENIED any food stamp help in the end.

"So then tell out strait, HOW RELIABLE are those statistics, I can see from afar the many massage traces on the paper the information is written on as provided. You never know who is the force behind making things look honky dory when in fact not so. Not believing, just review those records hoping they are fudged.

This is a perfect example of sheer negligence simply failing to help the needy. If the food stamps staff were listening he or she would easily empathize—bending backwards—to help the applicant. He didn't and he's probably saying, "Good riddance!" Really?

More junkets: As taxpayers, we insist for transparency in the publication of our taxes spent so far this year on junket trips abroad. This list should include destination, purpose, and number of people involved; total per diem paid, cost for airline tickets and an explanation of the benefits to taxpayers. Please write it in simple sentences (if you can write) with appropriate syntax, diction, grammatical integrity, etc.

We insist on this explanation wary that we have problems paying utility bills with CUC, other obligations to vendors who've waited for over a year, money for the Settlement Fund and land compensation, among others. Interesting the junket trips after the vacuous announcement that the economy has improved. Really? Has this improvement moved to family pocketbooks or is it in your wallets to pay for excesses abroad?

See MANGO on Next Page

Venezuelan leader spends $375,000 for Castro party while nation suffers

By ANDRES OPPENHEIMER
Miami Herald

Andres Oppenheimer is a columnist for the Miami Herald*. Readers may email him at aoppenheimer@herald.com*

Venezuela is suffering its worst economic crisis in recent memory, but that doesn't seem to have stopped President Nicolas Maduro from spending $375,000 to travel to Cuba with an 80-member delegation — including musicians, dancers, relatives and friends — to celebrate the 90th birthday of Cuba's retired maximum leader Fidel Castro.

When I read this news report in the Venezuelan daily El Nacional, my first reaction was to wonder whether the figures were accurate. So I called opposition Congressman Carlos Berrizbeitia, the legislator who had disclosed these figures at a National Assembly session, and asked him how he had come up with his estimate.

Berrizbeitia, a member of the National Assembly's appropriations committee, told me that Maduro traveled to Cuba on Aug. 12 with about 80 people aboard three airplanes, including the 45-55 passenger presidential aircraft, an older 45-55 passenger presidential plane and a smaller Falcon aircraft owned by Venezuela's state-run PDVSA oil monopoly.

The fuel expenses of the three planes for the 2,700-mile round-trip amounted to about $270,000, he said. In addition, the Venezuelan delegation spent about $250 per person a day in food and lodging, which added $105,000 to the total bill, he said.

"The Cuban dictator's birthday party cost us Venezuelans nearly $400,000, at a time when we have widespread shortages of food and medicines at home," Berrizbeitia told me.

Asked how he knows that Maduro's delegation flew in three aircraft, and totaled about 80 people, Berrizbeitia told me that most of the information is public. The pictures of Maduro's planes landing in Havana are all over the internet, and Maduro traveled — in addition to his security team, journalists, relatives and friends — with Venezuela's "Corazón Llanero" folkloric troupe, which is made up of dozens of singers and dancers.

Indeed, the Venezuelan government-funded TeleSur's website reported on Aug. 14 that at least 40 members of the group had performed in a special birthday show for Castro at Havana's Karl Marx Theater that day.

"Venezuela paid homage to Fidel with a show by Corazón LLanero," the TeleSur dispatch said. "More than 40 Venezuelans on stage, between singers, artists, dancers and representatives of Venezuelan music, arrived in Cuban territory to pay homage to the Cuban leader."

In addition, there were dozens of Venezuelan security guards, television announcers and technicians of Venezuela's government-run television network who broadcast the show live to Venezuela.

According to Berrizbeitia, Maduro has already spent more than $14 million in 22 trips abroad since he took office three years ago. One of the most expensive ones was a trip to China last year, when he took more than 80 guests with him, including the two nephews of his wife who now are in prison in New York on drug trafficking charges, that cost more than $1 million, he said.

"Maduro should have to explain these expenses, but this government is used to not being accountable to anybody," Berrizbeitia told me. "They have co-opted all government institutions, and operate with total impunity."

Maduro's excesses could have been understandable when oil prices were at $146 a barrel and Venezuela was awash in money. But now, Venezuela is in a shambles, with a more than 700 percent annual inflation rate that is the highest in the world, an economy that is projected to contract by 10 percent this year, and massive food shortages.

Most supermarket shelves are empty. People have to wait in lines for hours under the sun to buy whatever they can find, and hundreds of thousands are seeking to flee the country.

It's time for the international community to press Maduro to accept humanitarian aid for Venezuela, and to ask him to respect his own country's National Assembly demands that he stop throwing money away while millions of Venezuelans are going hungry. Venezuela is on the verge of a refugee crisis that could spill over to much of Latin America, and Maduro should not be spending a fortune for retired foreign dictators' birthday parties.

I'll vote for someone, just not either of those two

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News*. Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

On the whole, I'm an imperfect Catholic, but there is one particular area of my Christian identity in which I excel: guilt. Jews talk a lot about the concept, and have even built some cultural traditions around it, but, to my knowledge, no one else has actually created an entire sacrament devoted to cleansing your culpable soul. Again. And again. And, my mea maxima, again. I can feel guilty about stepping on the cracks in the sidewalk (my mother's back was quite fragile,) guilty about killing the mosquito that is harpooning my upper arm, guilty, even, about the homeless person who looks at the sandwich I've offered and says, "I don't eat meat."

If guilt were quantum physics, I'd be Stephen Hawking.

Lately, I've been thinking a lot about my father, and, if you bear with me, you will see the seamless symmetry of my introduction. Daddy wasn't the sort of person to wallow in guilt, although I'm quite certain he was well acquainted with this shadow friend. He just didn't talk much about it. Instead, he internalized his feelings and manifested whatever penance he thought he owed through action.

My father was not a privileged man, and he didn't have a privileged childhood, but he did understand that even the hardships of living with alcoholic parents on the wrong side of West Philadelphia were still less than the hardships suffered by young blacks down south during Jim Crow. So when he graduated from law school, he took time off before joining that white-shoe law firm and went to Mississippi to register blacks for voting, and public office. I've written about that before, many times, and I don't have to go into much detail about the run in with the Ku Klux Klan or the young Philadelphia lawyer's horror at being called a "white n — " by little children. Daddy did his job, came home, and didn't say much more about it until the year he spent dying. That's when he started to write his memoir, never finished, and put those flashes of sad and bitter remembrance to yellow onionskin. Reading them after his death, I realized two things: (1) Daddy was a gutsy man and (2) his highest religion was the Constitution and its imperfect, but unequivocal promise of equality.

But as I said before, his daughter's religion is Catholicism (as was his) and along with the majesty of the Mass and the glory of the Trinity comes the obligation of guilt. And now I'll tie my father and my faith together for you.

Daddy risked his life to make sure other Americans not as blessed as he was could vote. He could have spent the summer of 1967 enjoying his new baby boy or making serious 1960s money at the firm, or even yawning his way through an extra year as a Nationwide Insurance adjuster. He could have gone to baseball games (although in 1967 the Phillies finished a mediocre fifth in the National League standings), could have taken a road trip with some buddies, could have rented a hut somewhere in Seaside Heights, one without plumbing. But instead, he went to Mississippi one year before Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, and three years after young civil-rights workers were murdered in that other Philadelphia. Voting meant that much to him.

It means that much to me, because of him. I never walked across my own Edmund Pettis bridge, and I never had to fight to get to a polling place. No one ever tried to deprive me of my birthright, which, had I been born in 1861 and not 1961 would have been unthinkable. In this country, voting is the most precious incident of citizenship, and when I see how my immigration clients fight to earn it for themselves, I wonder how anyone could ever take it lightly.

But then, this year happened. I was presented with the most mediocre candidates this country could extract from its bowels, a man and a woman who reflect the basest and most troubling aspects of our identity. The man wants to use false labels to turn foreigners into criminals and terrorists, while the woman lies and says that abortion is "health care." The man ridicules war heroes, and the woman calls Republicans and other political opponents "terrorists." I could go on, and I have in other columns, where I've lamented the putrid quality of the candidates, but I don't really have the stomach.

It has gotten to the point that I've said I will not vote for either of the horror shows presented for daily inspection. That has elicited the usual partisan flame-throwing from both sides, and I now expect that no one will be happy with whatever I say about anything, anytime, anyhow.

But that's not the point. I don't really care what other people think about my "non-choice." I care about what I'm doing if I don't vote. I think back on my father, who is likely looking down upon me with a bemused Irish smile, and saying, "Christine, I'll kick your freckled ass if you mess this up." My mother is probably sitting beside him saying "Ted, leave her alone."

The truth is, I feel guilty at the thought that I won't be able to vote for president this year. I feel ashamed that I would voluntarily relinquish the gift for which my father fought to give to others less privileged than a white suburban college-educated professional who never had to fight to get to a polling place. My Catholic guilt is engaged as I think about people who marched through the streets of Cairo and Tehran and Baghdad, courageously saying, "We are here." And I think of my father in Hattiesburg, telling those little, white children with the dirty mouths, "I am here."

So, I'm voting this year. Not for him, and not for her. Both are so soiled and damaged as candidates that billions of Hail Marys would not wipe the stain from my soul if I supported either one. But I am voting, for an as-yet undetermined person whose name will be written in that space left open for me by my father, and those who went before.

And, my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended thee by even considering staying home.

MANGO

From Page 10

Discipline: When I started out as cub reporter, there was the persistent conviction to capture the foundation of journalistic writing. It was a difficult beginning trying to figure what news-writing entails. I was told of the Five Ws and an H. It piqued my interest probing which one comes first or just how do I approach it. It took a lot of trip to my manual typewriter with the Micronesian News Service to hone my ABCs.

Writing well entails nothing else but "writing," daily. Textbooks and lectures are helpful but building journalistic writing skills entail, if I may reiterate, actually writing! And good writing is rewriting! It took a little time to figure out the beast or "discipline" in journalistic writing. I started strengthening it in 1976 after journalism school and training. Indeed, it was a long worthy journey.

The term "discipline" though is a good word for eggheads on the hill to redefine and understand. Get out of your elitist nest so we can stand together and see eye-to-eye. Sayu?

RIO'S

From Page 10

shot and killed when the police truck he was in took a wrong turn into a favela. Rio has tens of thousands of security personnel on the streets now; what will crime look like after the Games, when that deployment subsides?

Just as endemic are Brazil's struggles with corruption. The center-left Workers Party, which launched Rousseff and her predecessor, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, to power, is embroiled in a multibillion-dollar bribery scandal involving Petrobras, the state-run oil company. Silva faces charges that he tried to obstruct a probe into the allegations surrounding Petrobras. Just how bad was it at Petrobras? Investigators tell The Associated Press that the oil company had a separate department to handle bribes.

Brazil may come out of these Olympics feeling pretty good about its performance with a global event that many thought it would not be able to pull off. We'll withhold judgment until the caldron flame is put out, but the way we see it now, it could have been a lot worse. There have been moments to savor (Simone Biles' four gold medals in gymnastics), history etched (Michael Phelps capturing his 23rd swimming gold medal in five Olympics; Usain Bolt streaking to his third 100-meter gold medal since Beijing in 2008) and moving surprises (Simone Manuel's stunning gold medal in the 100-meter freestyle, making her the first female African-American swimmer to win individual gold). The cataclysmic implosion many predicted hasn't materialized. And for that, we say Maravilhoso, Brasil!

Soon, however, the world will exit Rio, leaving behind a country burdened by corruption, crime, economic malaise and polluted water. The hope is that Brazil's leaders will aggressively tackle those scourges after the global spotlight swivels away.

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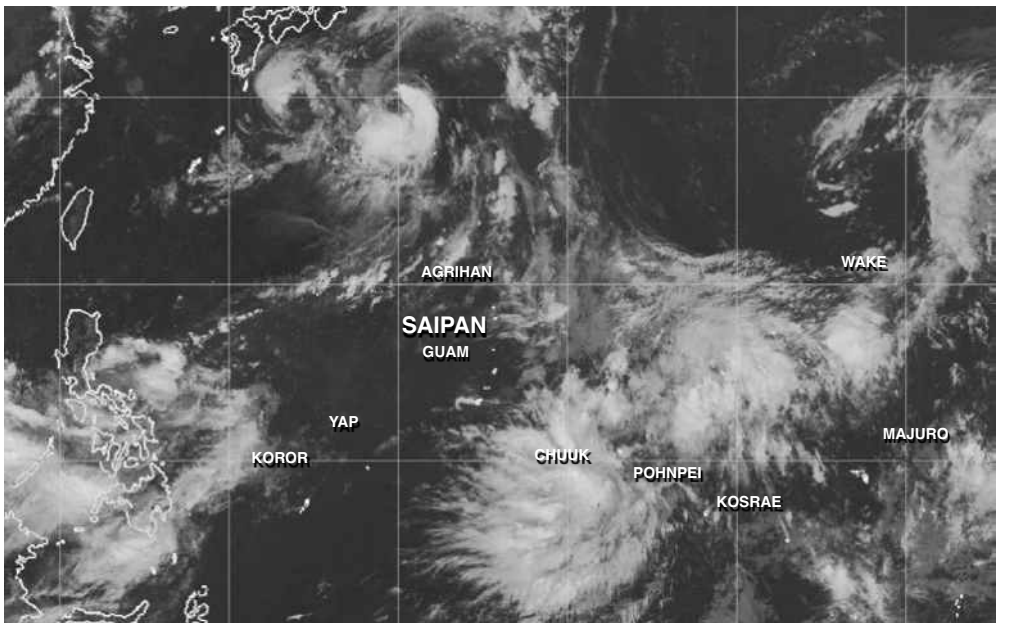
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. West winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲86º ▼77º	▲86º ▼78º	▲89º ▼79º	▲89º ▼79º	▲89º ▼79º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:10 AM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2016

WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

The advent of the large disturbance out to the east and southeast will bring about a significant change to the Marianas forecast for the next few days, with another showery period in the offing before drier weather finally settles in. Both the GFS and ECMWF bring the disturbance westward through the Marianas Mon-Tue with periods of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from late tonight through Tue night. Neither model develops the circulation significantly as it crosses the Marianas, and in fact it should end up getting absorbed into the monsoon pattern up north on Wednesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▼ ▲	
Guam and Rota	Strong thunderstorms	78 / 85 °F
Palau	Partly sunny	82 / 87 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	79 / 86 °F
Chuuk	Heavy rain	78 / 86 °F
Pohnpei	Strong thunderstorms	78 / 87 °F
Kosrae	Afternoon clouds	83 / 87 °F
Majuro	Morning clouds	82 / 86 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE	▼ ▲	
Auckland	Partly cloudy	50 / 59 °F
Beijing	High level clouds	73 / 89 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	78 / 89 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	73 / 85 °F
London	Light rain	76 / 86 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	65 / 83 °F
Manila	Mostly cloudy	79 / 87 °F
Melbourne	Mostly cloudy	44 / 57 °F
Miami	Partly sunny	80 / 90 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	70 / 80 °F
Osaka	Broken clouds	79 / 96 °F
Paris	Morning clouds	58 / 80 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	79 / 91 °F
Rome	Morning clouds	66 / 93 °F
Salem	Sunny	54 / 79 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	57 / 66 °F
Seoul	Mostly sunny	75 / 92 °F
Tokyo	Tons of rain	78 / 81 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly sunny	66 / 82 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
4:30 AM	LOW TIDE	0.45 Feet
10:09 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.88 Feet
4:38 PM	LOW TIDE	0.26 Feet
10:44 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.0 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:35 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	9:41 PM	9:24 AM
Tuesday	10:30 PM	10:23 AM
Wednesday	11:20 PM	11:22 AM
Thursday	-	12:21 PM
Friday	12:13 AM	1:19 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
OZ6063	5:15pm	8:35pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ6053	10:35am	4:05pm	4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Imperial Pacific holds job fair for Grand Mariana

Job opportunities were abundant as a job fair was held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa last Thursday by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for its soon-to-open Grand Mariana Casino and Hotel Resort.

Bertha Leon Guerrero, vice president of Human Resources for Imperial Pacific, said that numerous key positions are open for application for both casino and hotel operations.

"We have a whole lot of positions that we put out there. On the gaming side we have to realize that not a lot of our local residents have the gaming skills so a lot of them would probably come in and are interested in the dealer positions, something more introductory on the gaming side because we are still building up on the skills," she said. "On the non-gaming side, we have the hotel operations, and food and beverage operations."

Hong Kong-based Imperial Pacific would be opening the Grand Mariana Casino from early to mid-2017. Guerrero also added that as of now, Imperial Pacific is already starting to build up on the necessary manpower to properly run the hotel.

"What we're doing is building our pools that are skilled and eventually set the training period before the actual opening."

The casino would be opening a little earlier before the hotel, which is expected to open early 2017, is also starting to train employees. "On the casino side, we do not have too many local residents that have the skill on the gaming side, so we're doing the training as we continue with the existing facility that we have," said Guerrero.

Imperial Pacific is also holding mini job fairs for non-gaming operations. "With our non-gaming operations they do little mini ones because we want to continue with our search," claimed Guerrero.

For the casino, more job fairs would be held. "The gaming side, what we've done this time is get both teams, get both for the entire company and put it together. We are planning to probably do this monthly. We are going to try and do that, to reach out, and then see what we get from that."

Those interested in a career in the gaming indutsry, Guerrero said to send resumes to recruitment@bestsunshinesaipan.com for possible job interviews. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

ERWIN ENCINARES

Various interviewers talk to job applicants at the Fiesta Resort and Spa during the job fair held by Imperial Pacific International.

ERWIN ENCINARES

The waiting area for those listed for interview at the job fair held by Imperial Pacific International.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Gaming and non-gaming registration for those with unscheduled interviews at the job fair held by Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. in Fiesta Resort and Spa.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Bertha Leon Guerrero, vice president of Human Resources of Imperial Pacific International.

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
ITB16-CHCC/CGC-002

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 09, 2016 **TIME: 11:00AM (NO LATER THAN)**
OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 **TIME: 11:00AM**

"FOR OFFICE SPACE LEASE IN ROTA COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER – SYSTEMS OF CARE PROGRAM"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
ITB16-CHCC/CGC-003

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 09, 2016 **TIME: 11:00AM (NO LATER THAN)**
OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 **TIME: 11:00AM**

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DLNR/P&R-156

SUBMISSION: SEPT. 12, 2016 **TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF ONE RIDING MOVER FOR DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION"

THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICK UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Development Authority
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 I Fax: (670) 235-7147
www.developcnmi.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP No.: 2016-CDA-07-RFP

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 **TIME: 10:00 a.m.**

"INSURANCE FOR CDA'S PROPERTIES"

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 2nd Floor CDA Building in Oleai, Saipan during regular working hours or by facsimile request to 235-7147.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, August 25, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room located on the second floor of the Captain George Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (June 23, 2016)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
III. EXECUTIVE SESSION
IV. CORRESPONDENCES
V. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
VII. OLD BUSINESS
1. Airport Settlement (AUA)
2. Amendment to Bylaws
3. Approval of administrative rules – Retention of documents

VIII. NEW BUSINESS
1. Approval of Tinian International Airport (TIA) Terminal Change Order No. 2 & Supplemental Budget
2. Approval of TIA Terminal Change Order No. 3 & Supplemental Budget
3. Approval of TIA Terminal A/E Amendment No. 5 & Supplemental Budget
4. Other Supplemental Budget Request(s): Saipan/Tinian Airports
5. Adoption of Appeals Committee Decision – Saipan International Airport's Runway Dispute by GPPC, Inc.
6. Personnel Matters: Employment Contract(s)
7. Saipan Airport Manager's Report
8. Solar Energy proposals
9. Proposed Salary Scale – Second revision
10. Resources Management International Corporation's request (Lease for Bunker)

IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Chairman, Board of Directors

August 19, 2016

Motheread/Fatheread holds eight completion ceremonies

CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program would love to celebrate all our summer success stories with you! June through August was abuzz with eight CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program completion ceremonies at our Saipan Youth Centers and Outreach. Here is a recap of the exciting events:

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program's Summer 2016 completion ceremony at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program's Summer 2016 completion ceremony at the Tinian Public Library.

■ Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, July 9, 2016 (Parent trainer Lilia King and Story Exploring instructors Viola Deleon Guerrero/Beth Demapan). Five parents—Jin Enhua Palacios, Su Jung Kim, Joysie B. Pelayo, Imelda Batinggal, and Maria Isabel Magpoc—successfully completed this session facilitated by Parent Trainer Lilia King. Meanwhile, six children—Marc Joshua M. Dungca, Kadesh Job B. Pelayo, Shalom Joy Batinggal, Devin Jin Palacios, Davina K. Chae, and Zhiyan Jin Palacios—participated in the children's story exploring class facilitated by Instructors Viola Deleon Guerrero and Beth Demapan.

■ Koblerville Mihaville Estates, July 13, 2016 (Parent trainer Lilia King). Adult Course only celebrated six participants who successfully completed the session are as follows: Geraldine Imperial, Mina Asep, Eruntina Santiago, Hijasmin Villagomez, Erlynda Elewel, and Erfilain Ringang. Volunteer Memama P. Asep.

■ Koblerville Youth Learning Center, July 26, 2016 (Parent trainers and Read Aloud instructors were Arlene Satur, Gloria Kaipat, and Vernon-Lee Inos Manglona). A total of 12 adults participated in the program: Machiela Kaipat, Virginia Imperial, Gene Arcilla, Tania Shiprit, Sylvester Kapileo, Jose I. Kapileo, John Delos Santos, Kyle Tiwseoman, Cathrina Pailug, Cris Ogo, Tina Kaipat, and Billy John Billy. Some 36 children participated in the Read Aloud Class facilitated by instructors Gloria Kaipat and Vernon-Lee Inos Manglona, and they are as follows: Jane Elias, Christie Sanchez, Gunner Trent Kapileo, Roland K. Sablan, Faith K. Sablan, Prescilla K. Sablan, Santino Camacho, Mayuko Oani, Jeremiah Solomon, Jacoby Cabrera, Greg Basonte, MJ David David, Kisama Siech, Obama Siech, Ichiaman Siech, Jackie Rose Villagomez, Joseph Villagomez, Jasmin Villagomez, Maria Sablan, Josephine Villagomez, Montrea Sablan, Kobe Imperial, Johanan Imperial, Evence Auston, Michael Adolfo, Laraya Imperial, Heather Christopher, Hilary Christopher, Tenia Aiten, Tenrina Aiten, Juan Q. Inos IV, Walder S. Simram, Patrick Gregory K. Manglona, Albis Thoryn K. Manglona, Kohana Rae Solomon, and Jay Billy.

■ Garapan Community Development Center, June 23, 2016 and July 27, 2016 (Parent trainer Velma Mafnas). Three parents— Joseph Agulto, Maricar Kida, and Eleonor Agulto—successfully completed this session facilitated by parent trainer Velma Mafnas. Meanwhile, nine children—Ney Myran Ignacio, Derence Diaz, Jose Mafnas, Jason Reyes, Jaylene Reyes, Damien Quitugua, Fort C. Aguilar, Rayanne Mae C. Aguilar, and BJ C. Belocora participated in the children's story exploring class facilitated by Instructor Ignacia Reyes.

■ Tanapag Youth Center, July 28, 2016 (Parent trainer Amor Rabauliman and Instructor Bryan Manabat). Seven parents—Jennifer Deleon Guerrero, Rebecca Lisua, Alicia Bedania, Davey Ann Iguel, Majesty Jessy, Tori Cepeda, and Linda Repeki—participated successfully completed this session facilitated by parent trainer Amor Rabauliman. Meanwhile, nine children Nathalia Camacho, Elana Johnson, Imua Johnson, Kalyster Peredo, Jose Camacho, Rocky Reyes, Rodney Reyes Jr., and Nathaniel Uriel Repeki completed the children's story exploring class facilitated by instructor Bryan Manabat.

■ Kagman Community Center, July 28, 2016 (Parent trainers Augustina Jaimatoon, Francisca Kaipat, Beth Demapan, and Rita Demapan). Nine parents—Iunisi Pome'e, Gregoria Laniyo, Jordan Reyes Agulto, Dao Mettao, Kevin Kaipat, Jordan Agulto, Roland Kapileo, Somjai Ada, and Candido Ada—participated in this session facilitated by newly inducted parent trainers Augustina Jaimatoon and Francisca Kaipat. Meanwhile, five children—Juan Mettao, Telesphoro Ada, Martel Ada, Joediana Agulto, and Alexandra Birnbrich—completed the children's Read Aloud class facilitated by Instructors Beth Demapan and Rita Demapan

■ Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, July 28, 2016 (Parent trainer/Cultural Literacy instructor Rita Demapan). A total of 14 adults participated in the Beginner's Chamorro Class: Elvin Rodrigues Quitugua, Luis Ryan Aldan Cepeda, Veronica Perez, Yvonne Perez, Sylvia Perez, John Fraser, Beth Demapan, Jerome Demapan, Mike Lee, Gilbert Joseph Birnbrich, Tim Aguon, Stephen Sablan, Brady J. Hammond, and Beda Mundo.

■ Tinian Public Library, Aug. 13, 2016 (Parent trainer Rose Lazaro and Story Exploring instructor Mary Santos). A total of seven adults completed the course, namely Janice B. Mapeso, Liane M. Aquiningoc, Antonetta A. Harjani, Elizabeth S. Nededog, Tracey K. Cabrera, Euneen E. Mendiola, and Julie B. Sablan. Some eight children completed the Story Exploring Class, namely Janna B. Mapeso, Thonica Aquiningoc, Tre'ani C. Cruz, Austin Jeremy L. Muna, Karika San Nicolas, John Peter Sablan Jr., Jesus Daniel San Nicolas, and Katie Delacruz.

In all, four youth centers, two libraries, and one village outreach participated in this summer's Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program: Garapan Community Development Center, Koblerville Youth Learning Center, Tanapag Youth Center, Kagman Community Center, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tinian Public Library, and the Koblerville Mihaville Estates Village Outreach. A grand total of 63 parents and 73 children were given the gift of family literacy.

A great big thank you and *un dangkulu na si Yu'us må'åse* to all our CNMI sponsors for their generous contributions and to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council for making all these summertime events possible. Thank you to the following individuals/organizations who assisted with certificates and awarding: Office of Congresswoman Felicidad Ogumoro, Garapan Community Development Center staff Pat Mareham and Mercedes Usunuku, Office of Youth Affairs Shelane Borja, Koblerville Youth Learning Center staff, Division of Youth Services, Tanapag Youth Center staff, Tanapag Youth Sports Association Staff Clarissa Sablan, Kagman Community Center Staff, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Acting Director Erlinda Naputi and Staff, Tinian Public Library staff, Tinian Mayor's Office Staff, Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas, Northern Marianas College's Adult Basic Education Program, Bank of Hawaii, Bank of Hawaii Financial Literacy Presenters Herminio Matsumoto and Joanne Aldan, CNMI Public School System's Food and Nutrition Service, Barney's Catering, MVReyes Catering, Kalayaan Catering, (Tinian) Northern Marianas College's CREES Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, and the Asep family.

If you were not able to attend our previous classes, then it is not too late. We are offering the following class schedule for the CNMI Head Start Centers and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library this upcoming fall. We will be posting up confirmed schedules soon! Families are welcome to join and children ages 4 years old to 11 years old may participate in the Story Exploring Class. (Note: Motheread/Fatheread Joeten-Kiyu Public Library classes are ADULTS ONLY sessions):

■ Oleai and Dan Dan Head Start Centers.

■ Chalan Kanoa and Kagman Head Start Centers

■ Tanapag and San Antonio Head Start Centers

■ Tinian Head Start Center

■ Rota Head Start Center

■ Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

Motheread Inc. is a nationally acclaimed private, nonprofit organization that combines the teaching of literacy skills with child development and family empowerment issues. Parents and children learn to use the power of language to discover more about themselves their families, and their communities.

Motheread offers classes for both the adults and children. In adult classes, participants learn to be story readers, writers, and tellers in a group structure that supports their own sense of worth and ability. These classes are appropriate for all adults, regardless of reading ability or prior educational experience. By teaching the "why" of reading rather than just emphasizing the "how," classes encourage parents to be reading role models for their children. For children, Story Exploring provides a structured environment for learning reading, critical-thinking, and problem solving skills. CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program is administered by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and is conveniently located in the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Schedules for interested Private Schools and Organizations/Agencies could be arranged by contacting Viola Deleon Guerrero, Beth Demapan, or Bryan Manabat at Tel:235-7319/989-8542/783-7678/285-9666 or E-mail: cnmimotheread@gmail.com or instagram @cnmimotheread or visit our website at https://sites.google.com/site/cnmimothereread/. ***(PR)***

Business

Pot plants at state fair in a 1st for the US

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—Nine living marijuana plants will be displayed at the Oregon State Fair in a first of its kind event for the United States starting next Friday.

The exhibit of the non-flowering, immature plants brings pot cultivation more into the agricultural mainstream less than two years after Oregon voters legalized recreational marijuana. The Oregon Cannabis Business Council, which organized the exhibit, says it's the first time live cannabis will be shown at a state fair anywhere in the U.S.

The group last year had an informational booth about marijuana at the fair and there were no complaints—a key factor in allowing them to go one step further and offer live plants for viewing this year, said Dan Cox, spokesman for the Oregon State Fair.

The specimens were selected by judges at a competition last weekend who chose three winners each in the sativa, indica and hybrid categories.

The entire exhibit will be housed in a translucent tent and extra security will be on hand to check identification so only people 21 and over can enter, Cox said.

None of the plants are allowed have buds, which are more potent than the leaves.

That's because the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which will regulate the recreational marijuana business, is still finalizing regulations for the nascent industry and it's currently illegal to transport a flowering plant, said Donald Morse, director of the Oregon Cannabis Business Council.

Those regulations and a licensing process for recreational producers are expected by 2017. The industry hopes to have plants with buds at the fair next summer, Morse said.

The event has raised some eyebrows, but Cox said the Oregon State Fair has always played a role in displaying the latest and sometimes controversial fads in agriculture and state culture. Nearly 20 years ago, he said, the fair had an exhibit on tattoo body art that caused a similar sensation.

AP

In this Sept. 28, 2015, file photo, Shane Cavanaugh, owner of Amazon Organics, a pot dispensary in Eugene, Ore., arranges the cannabis display in his store.

"It is a showcase for traditional things. And yet it's always been a show place for the new, the different and the innovative," he said.

Oregon voters legalized recreational marijuana in a November 2014 ballot initiative after medical marijuana was legalized years earlier.

Recreational marijuana remains illegal in 46 states and under federal law. But in Oregon, the pot business has been booming.

Anticipated state revenue from recreational marijuana through June 2017 was recently quadrupled by Oregon's Legislative Revenue Office, from $8.4 million to $35 million.

Cox said there aren't plans to expand pot's place at the fair beyond the small exhibit, which is in a space rented by industry proponents.

But for weed fans, just getting a place at the table is worth celebrating.

"It's pretty awesome to be judging actual cannabis plants that are going to go into a state fair," said Tom Lauerman, one of six judges and an organic marijuana grower who was once arrested in a law enforcement drug raid targeting pot. "It kind of gives me goose bumps even talking about it."

The fair runs from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5 in Salem, Oregon.

Farmers seek tax credit for donations to food pantries

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Each year New York farmers give millions of pounds of apples, squash, corn or other agricultural products to the state's food banks. Now they're looking to get some credit for those good deeds—a tax credit.

Legislation awaiting action by Gov. Andrew Cuomo would offer farmers a tax break of up to $5,000 a year for donations to the regional food banks that serve hundreds of food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters around the state.

Many farmers often donate surplus fruits and vegetables or products they can't sell because of a superficial imperfection. Sometimes an apple is too small, a melon is too big, or a squash has a slight blemish.

"You can't sell it, but it's still a good squash and somebody can use it," said Larry Eckhardt, who grows pumpkins, corn and other crops on his 1,100-acre farm in Rensselaer County. "To me as a farmer, and as a fellow resident of Earth, we need to help out whenever we can. Because there are some truly needy people out there."

The federal government already offers a tax credit to farmers who donate goods to food banks. Several states have created their own tax credits, including California, Oregon and Colorado.

Food banks welcome the donations, which give struggling New Yorkers access to healthy fresh fruits and vegetables. Last year farmers donated 12 million pounds of food in New York, and advocates for emergency food programs say there's an appetite for more.

"There is widespread need for fresh fruits and vegetables in New York's food emergency system," said Susan Zimet, executive director of Hunger Action Network of New York State, which advocates for the state's food banks. "Unfortunately, it is often prohibitively expensive for farmers to donate their food due to steep harvesting, processing, and transportation costs."

An estimated 2.3 million New Yorkers rely on emergency food programs like the ones offered by food pantries, and more than a third of them are children. Nearly 3 million households in the state participate in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP. Research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have shown poorer families are less likely to have access to fruits and vegetables, a cornerstone of a healthy diet.

Republican Sen. Rich Funke, the sponsor of the tax credit, said the tax credit seems like an obvious way to put the state's agricultural resources to work.

"It's a small thing that we can do to encourage farmers to donate," he said.

EPA watchdog says government fails to study ethanol's impact

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration has failed to study as legally required the impact of requiring ethanol in gasoline and ensuring that new regulations intended to address one problem do not actually make other problems worse, the Environmental Protection Agency inspector general said Thursday.

The conclusion in the new audit confirmed findings of an Associated Press investigation in November 2013. The AP said the administration never conducted studies to determine whether air and water quality benefits from adding corn-based ethanol to gasoline. Such reports to Congress were required every three years under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

The AP investigation described the ethanol era as far more damaging to the environment than the government predicted. As farmers rushed to find new places to plant corn, they wiped out millions of acres of conservation land, polluted water supplies and destroyed habitat.

The EPA agreed with the inspector general's findings that it had failed to produce studies as legally required. It said it will produce the first report—on the impacts of biofuels—by December 2017, and investigate whether ethanol requirements made other environmental problems worse by September 2024. That will be 17 years after Congress passed a law requiring oil companies to blend billions of gallons of ethanol into their gasoline.

President George W. Bush signed the law, but it fell to President Barack Obama to implement it.

The EPA said the 2024 study will require investigations about air quality, emissions and how renewable fuels have and might be produced, distributed and used, which it said will be time-consuming and resource-intensive.

The EPA told the inspector general that it produced one congressional report about the effects of ethanol on the environmental and conservation in December 2011, at a cost of $1.7 million, then ran out of money for future reports. It also said it never received input from Congress on its first report and asserted that three years was too short a period for any significant scientific advances that would have mattered.

Most limits on US-Mexico flights are about to be lifted

DALLAS (AP)—Most restrictions on flights between the U.S. and Mexico will lift on Sunday, a change expected to bring more options and possibly lower prices for travelers.

American, Delta and Southwest have already announced that they will offer new flights across the border later this year. United is watching the demand for flights and will respond accordingly, a spokesman said.

The United States and Mexico agreed in December to open their aviation markets to each other's carriers. Rules that had generally limited two or three airlines from each country to a particular route will go away.

Airlines on both sides of the border will be able to fly whatever routes they want as often as they want and set their own prices, said Thomas Engle, the State Department's deputy assistant secretary for transportation.

"This will help reduce airfares for sure," said George Hobica, founder of the travel site airfarewatchdog.com.

Hobica said base fares between the U.S. and many destinations in Mexico are already low, but both countries impose taxes that inflate the price of a ticket. "The fares are low, it's the rest that makes it seem expensive," he said.

For example, on a round trip between Dallas-Fort Worth and Cancun, Mexico—already a popular route—taxes and fees can account for between 20 and 30 percent of the price of a bargain, economy-class ticket of $383 to $585.

Southwest promoted fares as low as $258 for a round trip, although seats were limited and the offer was scheduled to end Sunday.

The agreement between the U.S. and Mexico does not relax limits on takeoffs and landings at Mexico City's busy main international airport. So the first new flights from U.S. carriers will focus on resort towns in Mexico.

Delta Air Lines Inc. announced Friday that on Dec. 17 it will start daily nonstop flights between New York's Kennedy airport and Cancun and between Los Angeles and Los Cabos. It will run Saturday flights between Kansas City and Cancun.

Southwest Airlines Co. announced that on Dec. 4 it will start flying daily from Los Angeles to Cancun, Los Cabos and Puerto Vallarta. Southwest plans to fly from Oakland, California, to Los Cabos and Puerto Vallarta starting in February if it gets approval from the Mexican government.

American Airlines Group Inc. will begin flying between Miami and Merida on the Yucatan peninsula on Nov. 4 and from Los Angeles to Cancun and Puerto Vallarta on Dec. 15, a spokesman said.

Nation

Flood-weary Louisiana cleans house while search continues

ST. AMANT, La. (AP)—Flood-weary residents cleaned out houses Saturday as search parties went door to door looking for survivors or bodies trapped by flooding so powerful in some cases it disturbed the dead and sent caskets floating from cemeteries.

At least 13 people died in the flooding that swept through parts of southern Louisiana after torrential rains lashed the region. An estimated 60,000 homes have been damaged, and 102,000 people have registered for federal assistance so far.

As waters are receding, residents are faced with mud-caked homes so thoroughly soaked that mold is a top concern.

"It's much worse than I expected," said Sheila Siener. "The water, the dirt, the smell. Water in the cabinets. Everything's filthy. I've never been through a flood, so I really didn't know."

In other areas the water is still high enough to cause concern. In Lake Arthur, pumps and sandbags were keeping floodwaters out of the town of 2,700 in southwest Louisiana. But authorities said there's still too much danger for people to return.

AP

Standing water closes roads in Sorrento, La., Saturday, Aug. 20, 2016. Louisiana continues to dig itself out from devastating floods, with search parties going door to door looking for survivors or bodies trapped by flooding.

In a uniquely Louisiana problem, some families are also trying to rebury relatives whose caskets were unearthed by the floods.

At least 15 cemeteries across seven parishes have had disruptions, the Louisiana Department of Health reported Saturday, although they don't yet have an estimate of how many graves, tombs and vaults have been damaged.

The department is reaching out to affected parishes to do assessments. In most cases, the disinterred caskets and vaults are still within the territory of the cemetery, although one casket ended up in a nearby backyard. In one case, a local funeral home has already recovered and re-interred the small number of caskets that surfaced.

Willie Brooks III said Saturday that he went earlier in the week to see his grandmother's grave at the Plainview Cemetery in Denham Springs, after hearing on social media that one woman said her mom's vault was gone.

"The vault was completely gone," Brooks said. Instead there was just a hole where his grandmother's vault used to be. "It could be down the street. It could be in the Amite River. I don't know."

Brooks was born and raised in Louisiana and he's heard of this happening before but never to this extent: "It's like a horror movie."

In southern Louisiana, the water table is so high that people generally cannot be buried six feet under. Caskets are often encased in vaults that are partially above ground, said Zeb Johnson, with the Calcasieu Parish coroner's office, who has extensive experience with recovering caskets scattered by flooding or hurricanes.

In Livingston Parish, which was hard-hit by the floods, John Marston from the coroner's office said they've received reports of about 30 caskets unearthed, and they anticipate finding more when waters recede off the southern part of the parish.

"As the water table gets high and the ground gets saturated, it's just like a boat. It's going to float," he said.

The problem is so widespread that the government is asking people who have seen any problems with cemeteries as a result of flooding to contact local law enforcement.

In other areas the search for the living goes on.

Search teams went house to house Saturday in Ascension Parish and will continue the search Sunday, said Brant L. Thompson from the State Fire Marshal's office. Thompson said aerial surveys Saturday indicated that waters in lower Livingston Parish had receded enough to allow them to search neighborhoods that were off limits due to high water earlier.

Flint water case could hinge in part on misconduct charges

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—The prosecution of current and former state of Michigan employees for their role in Flint's lead-contaminated water crisis likely will face an early test over whether one of the most serious charges can even be levied against the middle- and lower-level government officials.

All eight workers charged so far, five from the Department of Environmental Quality and three with the Department of Health and Human Services, face a misconduct in office charge—a felony that can carry a five-year prison term. The cases are in the early stages of prosecution.

But there is no statute clearly defining official misconduct. Rather, it is a common law offense based on judicial decisions and a doctrine whose origins trace back centuries to England.

The Michigan Supreme Court has ruled that misconduct in office applies only to "public officers," not all government workers.

Peter Henning, a Wayne State University law professor and a former federal prosecutor, said Michigan is one of few states to preserve common law criminal offenses. State courts are still struggling to discern who can face the charge, he said, particularly within bureaucracies staffed mostly with non-elected or non-appointed officials.

"The higher up you get in the bureaucracy and the chain of the command, the more likely you're going to be an officer," Henning said.

Just last month, the state Court of Appeals affirmed a lower judge's decision to toss a misconduct in office charge against a Wayne County lawyer in a failed jail project. The defendant was a "public employee," not a public officer, the court ruled.

Factors to be weighed include whether a position and its duties were created, defined and delegated by the Legislature or through legislative authority. Elected officials such as the governor, lawmakers, mayors and high-ranking appointees are public officers. Police officers have been successfully prosecuted for the crime, too.

The DEQ employees worked in the Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance. The former chief, Liane Shekter Smith, was fired in February while four others—district supervisor Stephen Busch, district engineer Michael Prysby, water quality analyst Adam Rosenthal and specialist Patrick Cook are suspended but recently began being paid again.

As of Aug. 1, the agency had spent nearly $1.4 million on private attorneys for those employees along with former DEQ director Dan Wyant and ex-communications director Brad Wurfel—who resigned in December and who have been named in civil lawsuits filed by Flint residents.

Imam's shooting death shakes storied immigrant neighborhood

NEW YORK (AP)—The gunman, police said, was Hispanic. His two victims were Bangladeshi Muslims, one an imam, shot without provocation on their way home from their mosque.

A week after the double killing, prosecutors haven't been able to offer any theory explaining why the college janitor they charged with the crime, Oscar Morel, would have singled out the two victims.

Was it racial or religious hatred? Or maybe a bubbling up of old tensions between immigrant groups in one of New York's evolving neighborhoods?

The answer remains a mystery, but people living in the Ozone Park section of Queens, where the shooting took place, say it shouldn't be taken as evidence of a rift between the culturally diverse groups that share its streets.

"There's tension now because of what happened," said Sumona Kazi, 26, who was born in Bangladesh but came to New York as a baby. She said she was confident that if the motive was hatred, it was the hate of one person.

"Our neighborhood—even if you're Spanish, you're Arabic, you're Muslim, you're Guyanese, whatever—we're a whole united family, you know? If you're in trouble, we're going to go out for you," she said. "There's no hatred here. There's no religious gang here. We're all friendly."

Located on the border with Brooklyn, just west of Kennedy Airport, Ozone Park has had its bad and better times along with an ever-changing population.

An Italian-American neighborhood for much of the 20th century, its most famous longtime resident was the late Mafia boss John Gotti. Jimmy Burke, the real-life mobster portrayed by Robert De Niro in "Goodfellas," lived a short walk from the shooting site. So did the not-yet-famous Cyndi Lauper and Jack Kerouac.

Dramatic change came in the '70s with the arrival of a wave of Hispanic newcomers, mostly from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

ACROSS THE NATION

Attorneys clash over document release in Ferguson lawsuit

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Defense attorneys in the wrongful-death lawsuit by Michael Brown's parents cite recent ambushes of police in Texas and Louisiana among reasons against expanding who can see sensitive grand jury details related to Brown's 2014 death in Ferguson. A St. Louis federal judge agreed in June to let no more than two attorneys for the defense and each of Brown's parents see testimony and the names of witnesses from proceedings involving a St. Louis County grand jury that investigated the Aug. 9, 2014, fatal shooting of Michael Brown by Ferguson officer Darren Wilson. The grand jury declined to indict Wilson, and the U.S. Justice Department later cleared him, concluding that he had acted in self-defense. Wilson resigned in November 2014. Brown's death led to months of sometimes-violent protests in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson. It also was a catalyst for the Black Lives Matter movement, which rebukes police treatment of minorities and has grown following several other killings of black men and boys by police.

Face-biting suspect dared deputies to test him for drugs

STUART, Fla. (AP)—A college student caught biting a victim's face after stabbing the man and his wife in a random attack dared deputies to test him for drugs, a Florida sheriff's office spokeswoman said Saturday. Nineteen-year-old Austin Harrouff told deputies, "Test me. You won't find any drugs," after deputies responded to the home of 59-year-old John Stevens and his 53-year-old wife, Michelle Mishcon, Martin County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Trisha Kukuva said in a statement. The couple died Monday night after Harrouff attacked them and tried to bite off Stevens' face.

Body of 5-year-old Minnesota girl found after Amber Alert

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Authorities said they found the body of a 5-year-old Minnesota girl on Saturday just hours after they had issued an Amber Alert saying she had been abducted by a family friend. The body of Alayna Jeanne Ertl was found in Cass County, about 200 miles north of Minneapolis. The suspect in her disappearance, family friend Zachary Anderson, 26, has been arrested and a vehicle found, police said. Ertl 's body was found shortly after 5 p.m. in the rural town of Motley, Meeker County Sheriff Brian Cruze told the Star Tribune. She was dead when police arrived on the scene, he said.

Asia

World's largest Muslim bloc concerned by Kashmir violence

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The world's largest bloc of Muslim countries expressed concern Saturday over alleged human rights violations in Indian-controlled Kashmir, which has seen weeks of deadly clashes between Muslim protesters and police.

Iyad Madani, secretary-general of the 57-member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, said at a news conference in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad that the situation in Kashmir was deteriorating and urged the international community to act.

"The situation is getting worse rather than better and this cannot continue," Madani said after meeting with Sartaj Aziz, the foreign affairs adviser to Pakistan's prime minister.

Kashmir, a predominantly Muslim region, is divided between India and Pakistan but claimed in its entirety by both. Most Kashmiris want an end to Indian rule and favor independence or a merger with Pakistan, which has long called for a referendum on the region's future. Hindu-majority India has refused to hold such a vote.

"We should not be afraid of referendum," Madani said, adding that it was up to the Kashmiri people to decide their future.

Standing next to him at the news conference, Aziz accused Indian forces of using lethal force against Kashmiris protesting peacefully over extrajudicial killings. He said a peaceful solution to the dispute over the region "is an imperative for regional peace and stability."

More than 68,000 people have been killed since rebel groups began fighting Indian forces in 1989 and in the subsequent Indian military crackdown. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training rebels, a charge Islamabad denies.

Meanwhile, a Kashmiri couple in their late 70s was injured in firing by Indian forces who have intensified nocturnal raids to arrest protesters in the region, police said Saturday.

AP

Indian paramilitary soldiers patrol during curfew in Srinagar, Indian-controlled Kashmir, Friday, Aug. 19, 2016.

The husband and wife were injured Friday night by pellets from a shotgun fired as they tried to resist a police party looking for one of their sons for allegedly leading anti-India protests in the southern Tral area, police and locals said.

A police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with department policy said the raiding party "accidently fired" at the couple and "regretted" the incident.

In signs of an intensified crackdown against protesters in Indian-held Kashmir since last week, local residents have increasingly accused counter-insurgency police and army soldiers of systematically raiding neighborhoods, ransacking houses and beating residents to intimidate protesters.

More than 2,000 people have been arrested for participating in protests and clashes in recent weeks, state government officials said.

Earlier in the week, Indian army soldiers beat a young college teacher to death and injured dozens of other people in a raid in the southern Khrew area. The army later said that it regretted the incident.

A security lockdown and protest strikes have shut the Indian portion of Kashmir since the killing of a popular rebel commander on July 8 sparked some of Kashmir's largest protests against Indian rule in recent years.

A strict curfew and a series of communication blackouts have failed to stop the protests, as residents have struggled to cope with shortages of food, medicine and other necessities.

At least 63 civilians have been killed and thousands injured in protest-related violence.

Philippine troops, rebels hold fire ahead of peace talks

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has reimposed an indefinite cease-fire after communist guerrillas declared their own truce as both sides set the stage for a resumption of talks aimed at ending one of Asia's longest-running rebellions.

Government peace talks adviser Jesus Dureza said Saturday that the unilateral cease-fire reimposed by Duterte will take effect Sunday simultaneous with the start of the rebels' weeklong cease-fire.

The gestures usher in four days of talks in the Norwegian capital of Oslo starting Monday that will focus on resolving the root problems of an insurgency that has left more than 150,000 combatants and civilians dead and undermined the Philippines' economic development.

"The duration of the cease-fire will last for as long as necessary to bring peace in the land and also in order to provide an enabling environment for the success of the peace negotiations," Dureza said at a news conference at Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport before he and the government's negotiating team flew to Oslo for the talks.

The military said it backs Duterte's move and expressed hopes that the rebels will match his move with the same sincerity.

After being sworn into office on June 30, Duterte has reached out to the Maoist guerrillas by talking to rebel leaders, designating left-wing activists to two key Cabinet posts and agreeing to free captured rebel leaders. The growing rapport, however, was short-lived.

Duterte declared a cease-fire on July 25, but withdrew it five days later after the guerrillas killed a government militiaman in a clash and failed to immediately declare their own truce by a deadline set by the tough-talking president.

While he became more critical of the rebels, whom he said survive through extortion, Duterte pursued peace negotiations to stop the decades-long bloodshed.

Under Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, peace talks stalled over the government's refusal to heed a rebel demand for the release of some captured guerrillas.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Australian woman, British man arrested over murder in Bali

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian police arrested an Australian woman and a British man on Friday in connection with the killing of a police officer in the tourist resort of Bali. Sarah Connor and David Taylor were arrested as they were seeking protection at the Australian Consulate in Denpasar, Bali's capital, two days after the killing of the traffic police officer, 2nd Assoc. Lt. Wayan Sudarsa. Bali Police Chief Maj. Gen. Sugeng Priyanto said statements from nine witnesses led to the arrests. Sudarsa's bloodied body was found early Wednesday on the beach outside the Pullman Hotel in Kuta, while Connor's handbag was discovered nearby.

China, Myanmar vow closer ties as Suu Kyi visits Beijing

BEIJING (AP)—China and Myanmar said Saturday that they have pledged to forge closer ties as "blood brothers," as Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi got set to wrap up a visit to Beijing, her first diplomatic trip since taking power in March. The neighboring countries also said in a joint statement that they would strengthen trade and cooperation on issues along the border, where fighting between Myanmar government forces and rebels have occasionally spilled over. There was no mention of progress, however, on a stalled $3.6 billion dam project in northern Myanmar primarily funded by Chinese energy interests, which was a key concern during the visit. China has been on a diplomatic charm offensive in the past year toward its fast-growing neighbor, while Myanmar under Suu Kyi has shown a willingness to embrace its top trading partner and major investor.

Chinese ships, planes hold war games in Sea of Japan

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese planes and ships held war games in the Sea of Japan last week, the military said, during which Beijing displayed its latest-generation frigate at a time of bitter territorial disputes with Asian neighbors.

The Defense Ministry said in a statement on its website late Saturday that the long-range exercises staged Friday pitted a red army against a blue one in a simulated bomber attack on a naval task force.

It quoted the commander of an unidentified flight wing under the East Sea Fleet, Zhang Wenzhong, as saying the planes found, identified and struck their targets in a "radically short time."

The statement made no mention of what sort of conflict the exercise was intended as a response to, prospective foes or why the Sea of Japan was chosen as the location of the drills. However, China has grown increasingly assertive over its claim to a chain of uninhabited islands controlled by Japan, recently dispatching more than a dozen coast guard vessels as Chinese fishing vessels swarmed the surrounding waters.

The ministry said the main ships involved in the exercise were the Jingzhou, a latest-generation type 054A class stealth frigate of which China is planning to deploy more than two dozen, and the type 052C destroyer Xi'an.

The ministry said aircraft were guided to their targets with the aid of early warning planes.

Other types of aircraft involved weren't identified, although China has been touting the capabilities of its latest-generation long-range H-6K strategic bomber equipped with the DH-20 land-attack cruise missile, giving it the ability to hit targets as far away as Australia. Only Russia and the U.S. are currently able to launch cruise missiles from the air.

Along with its island dispute with Japan, China is involved in an intense rivalry with the U.S. over military dominance in the region. Tensions in the South China Sea have also risen after China refused to accept an international arbitration panel's ruling invalidating its claim to virtually the entire strategic water body.

China plans joint naval exercises with Russia in the South China Sea next month, a move criticized by the head of the U.S. Pacific fleet as increasing instability in the region.

World

Officials: 30 killed, 94 hurt in wedding attack in Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—A bomb attack targeting an outdoor wedding party in southeastern Turkey killed at least 30 people and wounded 94 others, authorities said Sunday.

Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek said the "barbaric" attack in the city of Gaziantep, near the border with Syria, on Saturday appeared to be a suicide bombing. Other officials said it could have been the carried out by either Kurdish militants or Islamic State group extremists.

Photos taken after the explosion showed several bodies covered with white sheets as a crowd gathered nearby.

The Gaziantep governor's office early Sunday raised the death toll from 22 to 30. It said the number of wounded remained at 94.

AP

People gather after an explosion in Gaziantep, southeastern Turkey, early Sunday, Aug. 21, 2016.

Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Turkey has been rocked by a wave of attacks in the past year that have either been claimed by Kurdish militants linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party - known by its acronym PKK - or were blamed on IS. In June, suspected IS militants attacked Istanbul's main airport with guns and bombs, killing 44 people.

The attack comes as the country is still reeling from last month's failed coup attempt, which the government has blamed on U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen and his followers.

Earlier this week, a string of bombings blamed on the PKK that targeted police and soldiers killed at least a dozen people. A fragile, 2 Ω year-long peace process between the PKK and the government collapsed last year, leading to a resumption of the three-decade-long con flict.Simsek, interviewed on NTV television, said, "This was a barbaric attack. It appears to be a suicide attack. All terror groups, the PKK, Daesh, the (Gulen movement) are targeting Turkey. But God willing, we will overcome." Daesh is an Arabic name for the IS group.

Simsek later traveled to Gaziantep along with the country's health minister to visit the wounded and inspect the site of the attack.

"This is a massacre of unprecedented cruelty and barbarism," he told reporters in Gaziantep. "We ... are united against all terror organizations. They will not yield."

He told reporters it was too soon to say which organization was behind the attack.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim condemned the bombing that turned "a wedding party into a place of mourning" and vowed to prevail over the "devilish" attacks.

"No matter what this treacherous terror organization is called, we as the people, the state, and the government will pursue our determined struggle against it," he said.

A brief statement from the Gaziantep governor's office said the bomb attack on the wedding in the Sahinbey district occurred at 10:50 p.m.

Mehmet Tascioglu, a local journalist, told NTV television, that the huge explosion could be heard in many parts of the city.

Police sealed off the site of the explosion and forensic teams moved in. Hundreds of residents gathered near the site chanting "Allah is great" as well as slogans denouncing attacks.

Fundamentalists gain ground in Algeria as war memory fades

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—Mosques are going up, women are covering up, and shops selling alcoholic beverages are shutting down in a changing Algeria where, slowly but surely, Muslim fundamentalists are gaining ground.

The North African country won its civil war with extremists who brought Algeria to its knees in the name of Islam during the 1990s. Yet authorities show little overt concern about the growing grip of Salafis, who apply a strict brand of the Muslim faith.

Algerians favoring the trend see it as a benediction, while critics worry that the rise of Salafism, a form of Islam that interprets the Quran literally, may seep deeper into social mores and diminish the chances for a modern Algeria that values freedom of choice.

More than a decade after putting down an insurgency by Islamist extremists, Algerian security forces still combat sporadic incursions by al-Qaida's North African branch. The conflict started in 1991 after the army canceled elections that an Islamist party was poised to win. The violence left an estimated 200,000 dead and divided society.

But authorities are treading lightly in their dealings today with "quietist" Salafis, who eschew politics but are making their mark on this North African nation buffeted by high unemployment—and a far higher lack of confidence in the powers-that-be.

"Thanks to God, Algerian society is returning to its source of identity," commented Said Bahmed, a philosophy professor at the University of Algiers. Bahmed, who is close to the moderate Islamist party Movement for a Peaceful Society, described the growing number of women in Islamic dress as a "benediction."

Algeria's North African neighbors also have been grappling with a new assertiveness from those seeking a greater role for Islam in society, and have folded Islamist parties into their power structures.

In Morocco, where a moderate Islamist party runs the government, women increasingly don veils, especially in working-class neighborhoods.

Tunisia's moderate Islamist Ennahda party headed the country's first government after the 2011 revolution and remains strong in parliament, but rebranded itself this year to separate religion from politics. Ennahda's influence did not stop deadly attacks on tourist targets last year claimed by the Islamic State group.

Turkey: Assad can be part of transition in Syria

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Saturday his country is willing to accept a role for Syrian President Bashar Assad during a transitional period but insisted he has no place in Syria's future.

The comments came after Assad's forces began attacking Kurdish positions this week, leading some Kurdish officials to speculate that a Syrian-Turkish rapprochement was underway at the expense of Kurdish autonomy in northern Syria.

"There will be concessions on the Kurdish question," said Nasser Haj Mansour, an adviser to the predominantly Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces, which expelled the Islamic State group from their northern Syrian stronghold of Manbij this month. "I do not know where this will lead."

Turkey is one of the main supporters of rebels fighting to overthrow Assad, and hosts more than 2.7 million Syrian refugees. But Istanbul is concerned about the growing power of U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish forces across the border and opposes any moves toward Kurdish autonomy or independence. The Syrian government, too, has grown uneasy with the Kurdish forces in the north, who enjoy close relations with the U.S. government, an open antagonist of Syria's Assad.

Damascus has largely refrained from attacking its homegrown Kurdish forces, which have successfully defeated the Islamic State group in multiple battles while expanding their own autonomous footprint.

However on Friday, the Syrian military's General Command released a statement referring to the Kurdish Asayesh internal police force as the "military wing of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)."

The military's statement appeared to be a concession to the Turkish government, which is battling its own Kurdish insurgency in the southeast and has long pressed the Syrian government to label the Syrian Kurdish political movement as an extension of Turkey's outlawed PKK.

Speaking to foreign media representatives in Istanbul, Yildirim said Turkey would aim to become more of a regional player with regard to Syria in the next six months.

"Could Syria carry Assad in the long-term? Certainly not," Yildirim said. "The United States knows and Russia knows that Assad does not appear to be someone who can bring (the people) together."

Congo electoral commission says vote should be delayed

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—Voter registration for Congo's November presidential election will not be completed until next year, the electoral commission president said Saturday, suggesting that the vote should be delayed.

Independent National Electoral Commission President Corneille Nangaa said a voter register cannot be ready until at least July 2017 because of logistical problems in registering more than 30 million voters, and because of a lack of funds.

The electoral commission started the registration process in Congo's northwest on July 31.

The opposition has expressed concern that President Joseph Kabila would delay the Nov. 27 elections in order to remain in power beyond his mandate, which ends in December.

Kabila, who has held power since 2001, is barred from running for a third term under Congo's constitution. The constitutional court in May said that the president should remain in office until a new leader is elected. Kabila has not spoken out about his political future.

"The electoral commission does not intend to be in violation of the constitution and took action by launching a revision of the electoral roll," said Nangaa.

The delay is likely to cause further tensions with opposition parties, which have been calling for on-time, free and fair elections.

Jean-Baptiste Bomanza, the deputy coordinator of a coalition of opposition parties, called for the publication of an electoral calendar that "respects the constitutional deadline."

An African Union-appointed mediator, Edem Kodjo, said that dialogue would begin Tuesday on a new electoral timeline.

The opposition parties put forth requirements for their participation in a national dialogue on elections, including the release of political prisoners.

Congo's minister of justice on Friday pardoned 24 people whom the opposition considered political prisoners.

Since Congo won independence from Belgium in 1960, there has never been a peaceful, democratic transition of power.

Kabila took over after his father was shot by a bodyguard, and was then elected president in 2006 and again in 2011.

Health & Fitness

For women, the chinup is an elusive but worthwhile goal

By JAMES FELL
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

AP
It can take a lot of strength-building and practice for most women to be able to do a chinup.

One day in my early teens, it seemed as if my ability to do chinups increased exponentially overnight. The victory was dampened by a cracking voice and acne.

As a man, I take the ability to lift my entire body weight so my chin is above a bar for granted. At my most out of shape, when I was sedentary and tipping the scales toward obesity, I could still do three chinups.

But for a woman to do even a single chinup, she needs to work for it, said Boston strength and conditioning coach Tony Gentilcore. And the work, Gentilcore added, is worth it.

"I consider it an important fitness goal for women," said Gentilcore, who trains Major League Baseball players as well as many female clients. The latter often have an aesthetic goal in mind, and the chinup helps them achieve that too. The training helps sculpt muscles in a way many find appealing, and "weight loss can be part of the discussion because it's less weight to pull up over the bar."

Once his clients have mastered a chinup, it's a skill they don't want to lose. Instead, they want to go for two chinups. Then more.

Lori Andrews, 48, just achieved her first full chinup, and it was six months in the making.

"I never had the upper body strength to do anything; I couldn't even climb a tree," said the interior designer from Calgary, Canada, who hired a trainer in January to help her do chinups.

Why is it women need to work so hard to achieve even a single chinup?

"It's not the quality of the muscle, it's the total amount," said Cassandra Forsythe, an assistant professor of exercise science at Central Connecticut State University and co-author of "The New Rules of Lifting for Women." "With men," she explained, "puberty provides an enhancement in testosterone, which creates greater muscle mass. There is a large difference in the amount of upper body muscle between men and women."

There's a cultural difference too.

"It seems men are always doing upper body work in a effort to build muscle and be stronger," Forsythe said, "whereas women are often more interested in fat loss and doing cardio."

So what kind of training does it take?

"You need to train four to five times a week," Gentilcore said. "Planks, pushups, core strength. Building total body stability starting on the floor is important, so when they're hanging from the bar they can hold a good position."

He then has his clients practice hanging from the bar, adding in flexed arm hangs and hanging leg raises. When they're ready, he has them "build the pattern" by mimicking the chinup while having clients stand on elastic bands attached to the bar to take away some of their weight and help lift them up. Over time, those elastic bands get thinner and the clients do more of the work, until they can do the entire exercise on their own.

Andrews' trainer gave her a well-rounded lifting program with additional chinup-specific exercises to train the back, core muscles, shoulders and biceps. Biceps help make the chinup easier than the pullup — two exercises that are often confused. With a pullup, the palms face away from the body and hands usually are positioned slightly wider than the shoulders. Chinups have the palms facing inward, hands about shoulder-width apart. The body's configuration with the chinup allows for more recruitment of the biceps, making it somewhat easier than the traditional pullup.

The chinup had long managed to escape Michelle Kania, a 37-year-old athletic trainer in Oswego, Ill., but she made it her mission to learn. She followed Gentilcore's program via online coaching.

"I got so I could do almost 10," Kania said. Once she could do it, she was determined not to lose it. She's currently able to do five chinups and plans to increase her training to get back up in the double digits.

Kania said she once impressed a group of Marines with her ability to do chinups.

"I like doing it in public, so people look at me," she said. "I get a kick out of that."

Quinn on Nutrition: Organic or conventional, choose more produce

By BARBARA QUINN
THE MONTEREY COUNTY HERALD

AP
Don't think you must buy only organic when buying produce.

I sometimes get asked if I eat only organic fruits and vegetables. My honest answer? I buy what looks freshest and what fits my budget. And that includes organic as well as conventionally grown produce. If that sounds like heresy, hear me out.

Organic food is catching on in all segments of our food supply, reported Laura Batcha, CEO of the Organic Trade Association (OTA) at the recent Organic Produce Summit in Monterey, Calif. And millenials—the generation born in the early 1980's to the early 2000's—seem to be leading the charge. This group chooses organic produce more than any other previous generation, says Batcher.

What if an organic alternative is not available where you shop? Or the price is higher than you want to spend? Don't be afraid of other choices, says Marilyn Dolan, executive director of the Alliance for Food and Farming, a science-based non-profit organization that represents organic and conventional food producers (www.safefruitsandveggies.com.) "The one consistent message that health experts agree upon and that is confirmed with decades of nutrition research is that a diet rich in fruits and veggies—whether conventional or organic—leads to better health and a longer life."

The value of eating more fruits and vegetables—organically produced and otherwise—is undeniable. According to research reported in the journal of Food and Chemical Toxicology, if just half of our population would eat one extra serving of a fruit or a vegetable every day, we could prevent 20,000 cases of cancer in this country every year. Wow.

Does that mean that organic food doesn't matter? Not at all. Organic food is very safe and increasingly more available. But so is conventionally grown produce, say food toxicologists. What really matters is that we eat more plant-based foods.

Dr. Carl Winters from the Department of Food Science and Technology at the University of California analyzed pesticide exposures in food and reported his findings in a recent issue of the International Journal of Food Contamination. He found very low levels of pesticide residues in conventionally produced foods as well as in organic foods (yes, some synthetic pesticides are approved for use on organic crops). And he concluded that our exposure to pesticides from either method of farming are at levels far below what might be a health concern.

Still worried about pesticides on your food? Experts in food safety, toxicology and nutrition say we can reduce and often eliminate any existing residues by simply washing our fruits and vegetables in clean water. (Some packaged products such as salad mixes, are already washed; check the label.)

What we choose to eat is an individual decision. And one size does not always fit all, say nutrition experts. One goal is to eat more produce. Organic is great. So are fruits and vegetables grown by conventional methods. Pick one or the other. But pick it!

Life & Style

'He's San Francisco': Tony Bennett honored for 90th birthday

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—If ever there was a man worthy of a grand birthday bash in San Francisco, it had to be Tony Bennett.

And that is exactly what happened Friday.

After the speeches, the music and the praise for the legendary crooner, hundreds of people watched as an 8-foot-tall bronze statue of Bennett was unveiled outside the Fairmont Hotel, where he first sang "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" in 1961.

"I can't get over what just happened," said Bennett, who turned 90 earlier this month. "That's the most beautiful statue I have ever seen. It will live in my heart forever. Thank you for being so wonderful to me. I'll never forget this day."

Bennett looked sharp in a blue suit but said only a few words and didn't sing. That was OK with the crowd; they were just happy to see him.

"He's San Francisco," said Marty Jewett, standing in the front row with her friend, also a huge Bennett fan. "I think he keeps all the generations within his repertoire. I love his voice and his longevity."

Jewett and friend Margaret Baker arrived early Friday to get a front row position in the crowd.

"I think Tony Bennett represents the best in Italian-American entertainment going back for generations," Baker said.

AP

Tony Bennett poses with members of his family, from left, Hadley Spanier, Danny Bennett and his wife Susan Crow, second right, after his statue was unveiled outside the Fairmont Hotel Friday, Aug. 19, 2016, in San Francisco.

For as long as anyone can remember, the New Yorker has been giving to San Francisco. Now, the city has paid him back, with Mayor Ed Lee declaring Aug. 19 to be Tony Bennett Day.

"Tony Bennett, you've helped us share the magic of San Francisco around the world," Lee said.

The celebration will continue at AT&T Park, where the San Francisco Giants will honor Bennett in a pregame ceremony and throughout the game. Bennett also will perform "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" for fans.

"Tony, you are royalty," said Larry Baer, the chief executive officer of the San Francisco Giants. "We look forward to tonight at the ballpark when we'll have a small group of 41,000 people singing Happy Birthday to you."

The theme of the day was how Bennett has always been there for the city by the Bay.

"When the cable cars broke down and were closed down for two years and we brought them back, he came," said Charlotte Mailliard Shultz, the chief of protocol for San Francisco and the state of California. "When we had the earthquake and we put the Bay Bridge back together, he came. He's always here for us so we thought, 'What can we do for him?' And we thought of the statue."

In addition to the fanfare Friday and a gala dinner Saturday, Bennett is getting his own ice cream flavor. Created by the city's Humphry Slocombe ice cream shop, the flavor "Duet" will feature vanilla ice cream swirled with limoncello sorbet and fennel biscotti to honor Bennett's Italian heritage.

But the centerpiece of the celebration was the statue, which San Francisco Bay Area sculptor Bruce Leslie Wolfe began creating a few months ago after the singer sat for him for three days. During that time, Wolfe said they laughed, played music and Bennett sketched his likeness, giving him a new appreciation for the crooner.

Canadian rock band The Tragically Hip holds final show

KINGSTON, Ontario (AP)—A delirious sold-out crowd and countless Canadians on live TV watched the final concert by rock band The Tragically Hip, whose lead singer and songwriter Gord Downie has been diagnosed with terminal brain cancer.

The band, an indelible part of Canada's national identity with songs about hockey, small towns and Canadian literature, ended its 15-show "Man Machine Poem" tour Saturday night in its hometown of Kingston, Ontario.

Thousands of fans—including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau—watched The Hip's final show at the Rogers K-Rock Centre, the city where the band began in the early 1980s. The concert was also broadcast live on national TV.

Trudeau's official photographer tweeted a photo of the prime minister and Downie embracing before the concert.

"Well, you know, prime minister Trudeau's got me, his work with First Nations. He's got everybody. He's going to take us where we need to go," Downie said from the stage.

"He's going to be looking good for about at least 12 more years, I don't know if they let you go beyond that. But he'll do it," Downie told concertgoers between songs.

Trudeau could be seen in the audience nodding and mouthing "thank you."

In a brief interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., Trudeau reminisced about how he used to enjoy the band's music during his high school and university years. He said the band remains anchored in Canada in so many ways through their lyrics and music.

While The Hip became one of Canada's most beloved rock bands, lasting success in the U.S. was elusive—outside of border cities like Buffalo, N.Y., where viewing parties of the concert's Canadian broadcast were held.

Despite being diagnosed with glioblastoma, the most aggressive cancerous brain tumor, in December, an energetic Downie was in fine form as he and his bandmates played an epic 30-song set loaded with hits and punctuated by three encores.

AP

Lead singer Gord Downie is seen performing on a screen as a man watches during a viewing party for the final stop in Kingston, Ontario, from Vancouver, British Columbia, Saturday Aug. 20, 2016.

Prize-winning author Joyce Carol Thomas dead at 78

STANFORD, Calif. (AP)—Joyce Carol Thomas, a prize-winning children's author and champion of multiculturalism, has died. She was 78.

Thomas died Aug. 13 at Stanford University Medical Center in California of cirrhosis of the liver stemming from a bad blood transfusion decades ago, according to her sister, Flora Krasnovsky.

Thomas was best known for her debut book, "Marked by Fire," an autobiographical novel set in her native Oklahoma that won the 1983 National Book Award and the American Book Award, which highlights diversity in literature. Other works included "Bright Shadow," ''Broomwheat Tea" and "The Blacker the Berry."

Thomas was also a three-time nominee for the Coretta Scott King award for outstanding children's books by an African-American.

The author was a board member of the American Book Award's sponsor, the Before Columbus Foundation.

Jack Riley, Mr. Carlin on 'The Bob Newhart Show,' dies at 80

NEW YORK (AP)—Jack Riley, who played a counseling client on "The Bob Newhart Show" and also voiced a character on Nickelodeon's animated "Rugrats," died Friday. The 80-year-old actor died in Los Angeles, according to his representative Paul Doherty.

Besides portraying grumpy, self-absorbed Mr. Carlin on the 1970s "Newhart" sitcom and providing the voice for absent-minded dad Stu Pickles on "Rugrats" and its spinoff, "All Grown Up!," Riley appeared in the Mel Brooks films "History of the World: Part I," ''High Anxiety" and "Spaceballs."

In a statement, Newhart said Riley created one of TV's "most endearing" situation comedy characters with his Carlin portrayal.

Riley was a "dear friend," one whose loss leaves an emptiness in the lives of his friends and family, including his wife Ginger Lawrence, Newhart said.

The Cleveland native also voiced commercials and made guest appearances on numerous TV series including "Seinfeld," ''Night Court" and "Diff'rent Strokes."

Diesel says Guardians of the Galaxy to be in next 'Avengers'

'Diddy' delays tour to recover from shoulder surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sean "Diddy" Combs will be kicking off his tour later than expected after undergoing surgery for a shoulder injury.

The rapper and business mogul announced Friday that his Bad Boy Family Reunion Tour will now begin Sept. 1 in Chicago to give him more time to recover from surgery. The tour featuring Combs, Lil' Kim, Faith Evans, French Montana and other Bad Boy Records artists had been scheduled to kick off Aug. 25 in Columbus, Ohio.

A spokeswoman for the "Mo' Money Mo' Problems" rapper says the delay will give Combs "the much needed time he needs in order to recover and give fans the incredible stage experience they have come to expect from a Puff Daddy production."

AP

In this Nov. 22, 2015 file photo, Sean "Diddy" Combs presents the award for best collaboration of the year at the American Music Awards at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

AP

In this Oct. 13, 2015, file photo, actor Vin Diesel attends a special screening of "The Last Witch Hunter" at the Loews Lincoln Square in New York.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The actor who voices the talking tree in "Guardians of the Galaxy" let it slip that his Marvel superhero team will sprout up in "Avengers: Infinity War."

Vin Diesel teased during a Facebook Live video Friday that the intergalactic do-gooders will be part of the third "Avengers" movie.

The "Infinity War" installment is expected to unite several Marvel characters from across 18 films.

Diesel, the star of "Fast & Furious," portrayed extraterrestrial Groot in 2014's "Guardians of the Galaxy" alongside Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana and Bradley Cooper.

Diesel called the planned "Avengers" mash-up "incredibly exciting."

A spokeswoman for "Avengers" studio Disney did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" is scheduled to launch May 5, 2017, while "Infinity War" is set for release May 4, 2018.

'NSync, Backstreet Boys creator Lou Pearlman dies in prison

MIAMI (AP)—Lou Pearlman, credited for starting the boy-band craze and launching the careers of the Backstreet Boys and 'NSync, has died in prison while serving a 25-year sentence for a massive Ponzi scheme.

The Orlando Sentinel (http://bit.ly/2b91G74) reports that according to a federal inmate database, the 62-year-old Pearlman died Friday. The cause of death was not immediately known.

Pearlman's $300 million Ponzi scheme through his Trans Continental companies was uncovered in 2006. He was convicted of fraud in 2008.

Hundreds of lawsuits were filed in the mogul's case, including one by the Backstreet Boys.

'NSync singer Lance Bass tweeted on Saturday "Word is that #LouPearlman has passed away. He might not have been a stand up businessman, but I wouldn't be doing what I love today wout his influence. RIP Lou"

AP

In this June 27, 2007, file photo Lou Pearlman poses outside his office's at Church Street Station in Orlando, Fla. Pearlman, credited for starting the boy-band craze and launching the careers of the Backstreet Boys and 'NSync, has died in prison while serving a 25-year sentence for a massive Ponzi scheme.

Drake is top BET Hip Hop Awards nominee for 3rd year

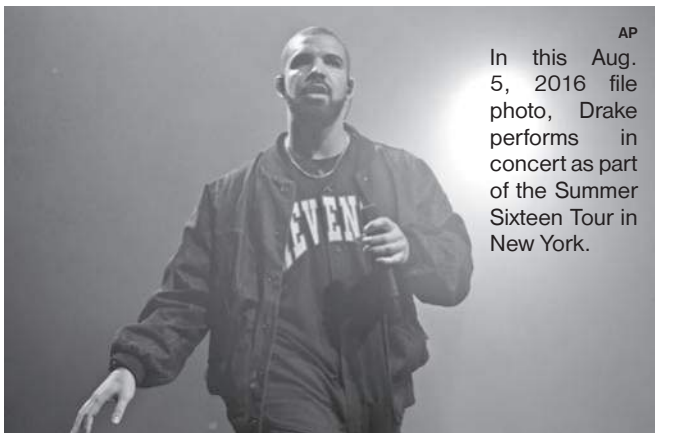
NEW YORK (AP)—Drake is dominating at the BET Hip Hop Awards for a third year, garnering the most nominations with 14.

BET said Thursday that the "Hotline Bling" rapper is nominated for album of the year, best live performer and other awards, to be presented Sept. 17 in Atlanta. The show will tape at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre and air on BET on Oct. 4.

Drake's latest album, "Views," has spent 12 weeks on top of Billboard's 200 albums chart.

Rapper-singer-producer Future, who released a collaborative album with Drake last year, is the second-most nominated act with 10. DJ Khaled and Kanye West follow with nine and eight nominations, respectively.

Other nominees in the 18 categories include Jay Z, Kendrick Lamar, Dr. Dre, Remy Ma and Desiigner.



AP

In this Aug. 5, 2016 file photo, Drake performs in concert as part of the Summer Sixteen Tour in New York.

Fear lingers after lunchtime walker is attacked by dog

DEAR ABBY: For health reasons, I had been walking during my lunch break at work. That ended last summer when someone unleashed his dog between his house and his car. The dog saw me on the sidewalk, charged, jumped on me and bit me. Thankfully, I put my arm up, so it only got my arm, but now I'm terrified to walk outside for fear of being attacked again.

The bite was nothing compared to the trauma. I'm afraid the fear will be with me for the rest of my life. No one thinks their dog would hurt someone, but I learned the hard way it's not always true. I wish dog owners would be more responsible, not only for their sake, but also for their dog's and other people's. Do you have any thoughts?

SHELL-SHOCKED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR SHELL-SHOCKED: When the attack happened, you should have reported it to animal control and given them the address of the homeowner. If the dog's owner didn't volunteer to see you got help for your injury—and that includes your emotional trauma -- you should discuss it with a lawyer. If that dog had been a large one, you could have been seriously injured.

Go online to the Humane Society's helpful section on this topic, www.nodogbites.org. As for my thoughts, I think you should resume your exercise routine whenever the weather permits.

DEAR ABBY: My 62-year-old mother is living in a small town with little to offer her. She says the only reason she stays is because her job provides benefits and she's currently going through physical therapy.

Mom is single, has no potential prospects and no social life outside of church. Her friends are all married or have moved away. I feel like she's not living her life fully, and I wish she could find the courage to leave. How can I convince her to be OK with the unknown and move to the big city?

CITY GAL IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR CITY GAL: Does your mother plan to be receiving physical therapy in perpetuity? If not, be patient. Wait until it is finished and find out whether her job offers vacation time. If it does, invite her to visit and show her what the big city has to offer.

If she can't get away, you may have to "entice" her by sending her videos of all the fun things she could be doing if she lived closer. I can't guarantee it will work because it's possible she's happy with her life the way it is. However, if she's not, it might be an effective way to whet her appetite.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: At what age do you believe it is appropriate for a girl to start wearing makeup? I don't mean lipstick and huge amounts of eye shadow, but a bit of mascara and lip gloss?

WONDERING IN THE SUBURBS

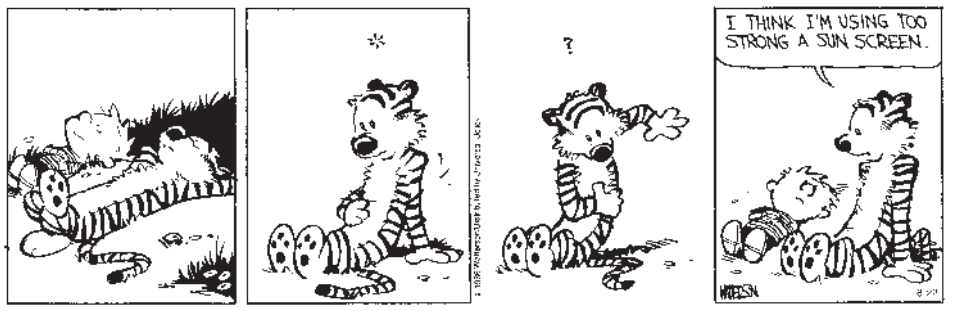
DEAR WONDERING: A touch of lip gloss when a girl is in the seventh grade is fine, but she should hold off on the mascara for another year or two.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

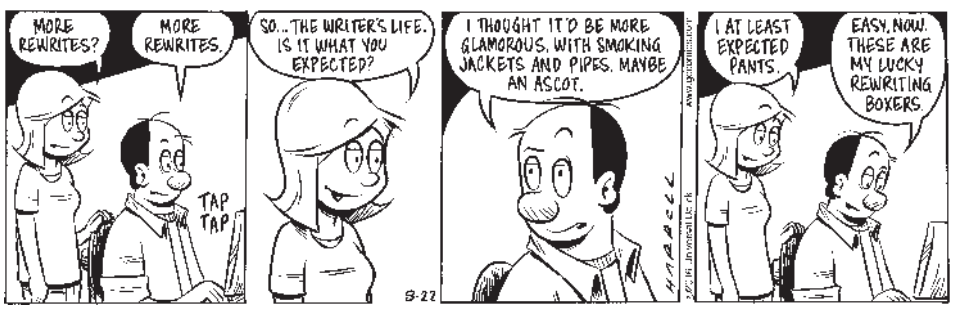


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MORE REWRITES?
MORE REWRITES.
TAP TAP
SO... THE WRITER'S LIFE. IS IT WHAT YOU EXPECTED?
I THOUGHT IT'D BE MORE GLAMOROUS, WITH SMOKING JACKETS AND PIPES. MAYBE AN ASCOT.
I AT LEAST EXPECTED PANTS.
EASY, NOW. THESE ARE MY LUCKY REWRITING BOXERS

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOU SOLD ME THIS VCR YESTERDAY, AND NOW I JUST FOUND OUT THEY'RE BECOMING OBSOLETE!
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
HOW COULD I?
FROM OUR VHS TAPE: "WHY NO ONE BUYS VCRS ANYMORE."
I'LL TAKE IT!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Blue birds
5 — Beta Kappa
8 Wild guess
12 Farm-related
14 Infamous emperor
15 Military dining area?
16 Aware of
17 That girl
18 Name derived from a person
20 Does nothing
23 Actress Penelope
24 Floral rings
25 Satisfied
28 Director Spike
29 Ram
30 Biblical boat
32 Camping shelter
34 "Got it"
35 Salty septet
36 Serpentine
37 Honor
40 "Mayday!"
41 Mentor
42 Remorseful
47 Saharan
48 Challenger's words
49 Audition CD
50 Mentalist's claim
51 Nuisance

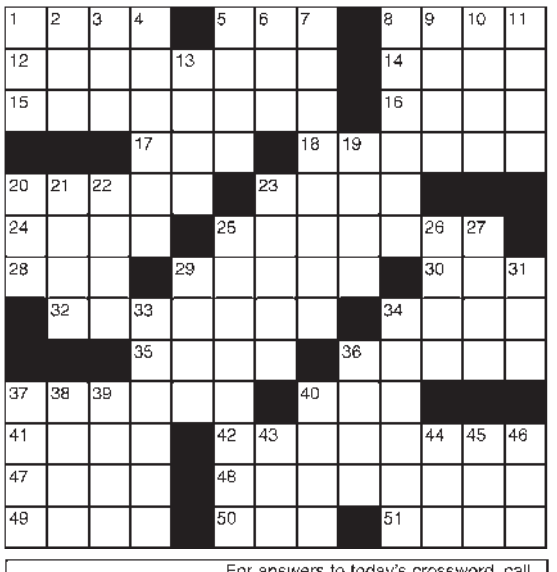
DOWN

1 Bread spread
2 Candle count
3 Decade parts (Abbr.)
4 Pageant bands
5 Docking site
6 Solo of "Star Wars"
7 Place to surf
8 Nap
9 Nashville's st.
10 Bohemian
11 Prosperous period
13 Numbered rds.
19 Plunks (down)
20 Unwell
21 Profound
22 Stead
23 Piggy bank items
25 Slapstick missile
26 Houston acronym
27 Arduous journey
29 Suit to —
31 Crucial
33 False
34 Foot part
36 Evening in Paris
37 "Zounds!"
38 Foolproof
39 Decorate
40 Cinch
43 Mag. staff
44 CBS logo
45 Refusals
46 Boy king

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	H	A		F	E	S	S		D	A	R	E
L	E	M		A	R	E	A		U	F	O	S
B	E	A	R	C	L	A	W		R	A	S	P
		R	A	T	E			R	E	A	N	
O	M	I	T	S		C	P	A	S			
P	A	L	S		C	O	L	E	S	L	A	W
L	H	L		E	U	R	O	S		A	B	A
S	C	O	H	L	A	W		A	N	O	N	
		I	T	L	L		A	S	C	O	T	
P	A	N	G	S			O	D	I	E		
I	D	E	A		L	E	M	O	N	L	A	W
N	E	A	R		S	T	E	P		O	N	O
A	S	I	O		D	E	N	I		I	S	K

Friday's answer 8 - 22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: James Corden, 38; Kristen Wiig, 43; Ty Burrell, 49; Valerie Harper, 77.

Happy Birthday: Travel, learning and adventure will fill your days, along with positive experiences with family and old friends. This is going to be a year to remember, so hold on to your hat and get ready to explore what lies ahead. Live in the moment and make the most of everything that comes your way. Your numbers are 5, 12, 17, 20, 26, 31, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't waste time. Check out investments and job opportunities and make financial decisions that encourage you to save. Emotional matters will fluctuate, making it vital for you to think before you respond. Professional gains look promising. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You've got nothing to lose. It's the beginning of a new week, so put your energy to good use. Learn from past mistakes, listen to experts and apply what you learn to getting ahead. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Arguing will be a waste of time. If you don't like something, walk away. A manipulative situation will make you feel bad. Balance and treating others the way you want to be treated should be your goal. Avoid bad habits. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Alter your living space to suit the activities you want to explore. Make changes based on what suits you, and not because someone else is making you feel guilty. Let your imagination lead to a unique environment. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Check out what's available professionally to find out how to use your skills more acutely. Raising your profile at networking events will help you connect with the people you want to work with. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Look at every aspect of any deal you are trying to make, whether it has to do with money, legal or health matters. Do your best to surprise someone who is feeling down, and you will avoid criticism and complaints. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't make changes that are too dramatic. Taking a subtle approach to whatever you are up to will bode well for your long-term success. Using your common sense will allow you to deal with any situation that arises. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Volunteer your time to a cause, and you will make a difference. Your voice will count and your unique ideas will win favors from those you encounter along the way. A friendly gesture will turn into something special. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't give in to pressure from others. Overspending in order to impress someone will lead to dissatisfaction. Making personal changes that result in better health will help you say "no" to temptation. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): It's important to organize every aspect of your life. You have so much to gain if you are well informed and don't allow emotional situations to sidetrack you. A unique approach will give you the edge over your competition. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Your diligence and desire to bring about positive changes will also lead to good fortune. Set your goals high and show everyone how tenacious you can be. Negotiate on your own behalf and you will get what you want. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take hold of the situations you face. You have more leverage than you realize, so don't be afraid to take action. A partnership will take a positive turn if you share your feelings in a peaceful and progressive manner. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are adaptable, intelligent and strong-willed. You are a perfectionist.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1			2	9		8	
		2			4	3		
		8						4
	3		9	1		5		2
9		1				6		3
4		5		7	2		1	
1						8		
		6	7			1		
	7		8	9			5	

Difficulty Level ★ 8/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

7	8	2	9	1	5	4	3	6
5	4	1	6	3	7	2	8	9
3	6	9	2	8	4	1	5	7
9	5	7	8	4	1	6	2	3
1	2	4	3	5	6	7	9	8
8	3	6	7	9	2	5	1	4
6	1	8	5	7	3	9	4	2
2	9	5	4	6	8	3	7	1
4	7	3	1	2	9	8	6	5

Difficulty level ★★★★ 8/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

INTERNATIONAL ROAMING FEES Solution: 7 letters

S	H	C	R	A	E	S	E	R	R	S	D	E	E	S
S	E	C	I	V	R	E	S	A	S	O	A	T	M	S
Ⓜ	A	N	A	G	E	L	T	E	M	I	O	A	I	E
D	Ⓐ	E	D	R	E	E	C	E	R	W	R	V	T	L
E	E	Ⓟ	M	T	S	C	S	P	E	T	B	I	P	E
G	M	V	Ⓢ	A	A	T	L	R	P	U	A	T	U	R
R	N	O	I	H	I	A	E	H	P	C	U	C	R	I
A	K	I	H	C	N	L	O	D	E	P	P	A	C	W
H	N	E	L	E	E	N	A	L	O	L	L	L	H	C
C	A	N	M	L	E	T	L	S	A	C	O	T	A	B
S	R	O	A	M	E	U	C	N	E	C	A	R	S	I
E	D	Z	E	S	L	V	S	I	A	L	D	L	E	L
E	V	Y	L	A	I	D	A	L	K	S	U	A	L	L
F	A	E	R	S	A	E	S	R	E	V	O	R	T	S
P	I	C	T	U	R	E	S	E	T	U	N	I	M	A

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 8/22

Abroad, Access, Activate, Airplane, Bills, Calls, Capped, Cards, Cellular, Charge, Chat, Code, Data, Device, Dial, Domestic, Email, Fees, Home, Local, Manage, Maps, Minutes, Mode, Overseas, Pay, Pictures, Plans, Purchase, Rank, Rates, Research, Roam, Rules, Select, Send, Services, Smartphone, Talk, Time, Tower, Travelling, Updates, Upload, Wireless, Zone

Last Thursday's Answer: Platoon

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) CAD Operator:

Required Bachelor's Degree and 5 years of experience. Proficiency in AutoCAD 2015, Google Sketchup 2016 and Microsoft Office.

Respond to N15 Architects by Email to admin@n15architects.com

WHATZIT Solution:
Break even

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
HYUN CORPORATION
(1) Accountant/Office Manager
Min. of 5 years experience on Accounting and office management. With good command in English and Korean. Must provide own transportation. Can work on flexible hours. Send resume to sylviacnmi@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCE MENT

(2) TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

- Must have at least 5 years work experience in the Telecommunications trade
- Knowledge and expertise in analyzing engineering computer, RF systems, and other iDEN telecom related equipment to maintain and improve our current telecommunications system.
- Must have good communication skills.

Interested applicants can send resume to
Choice Radio, Inc.
P.O. Box 501750 Saipan, MP 96950

Mariana Resort & Spa

Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd.
dba Mariana Resort & Spa, Mariana Country Club, Mariana Seaside Circuit

Available Jobs
Eligible U.S. workers apply at the Human Resources Office, Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd. (Marpi)

Bus Drivers
Front Desk Clerks

Submit resume or fill up an application attached with police clearance at Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd., H.R. office in Marpi. Drug test require.
Contact person: Emelina Santos Tel # 322-0770 ext. 402/409

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Solar Energy Site Surveyor – Residential Solar

Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc. – CNMI
Gualo Rai, Saipan
Job Type: Full-time

Description:
FULL TIME! Competitive pay with amazing health insurance! Medical, dental, vision. Paid training with the Island's leader in Solar Power. Career path opportunities for top performers. Must have a valid driver's license. Must be able to pass pre-employment drug screen. Must be able to pass criminal background check.

The site surveyor must be skilled to obtain and communicate the necessary project information. Knowledge in areas of solar installations, roofing, construction experience, inspections and/or surveying experience and basic knowledge of residential electrical systems is preferred. Must be able to read plans, specifications, diagrams and equipment submittals. Must have a minimum of one year experience related to the above disciplines. Must have computer experience, ability to lift heavy weights, climb ladders and communicate effectively.

Please forward all resumes to the following email address –
pyoriocnmi@micronesiarenewableenergy.com

JVA for YANO ENTERPRISES, INC.
dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Cook (3): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 1-2 years experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Interested applicants must apply in person, applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
for MISA ENTERPRISES,INC.

General Maintenance (2): Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing, repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. All applicants must be of good health and good moral character must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 2-3 years of experience.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant MISA Bldg.1 in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant position:

Position: Waitress (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma / GED preferred. At least six (6) months serving experience required or six (6) months current hosting experience. Restaurant and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights. Ability to speak Chinese language is an advantage.

Applications can be obtained at the Security Office at the Hotel's South Wing. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than Monday, August 29, 2016. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORYNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM	:	CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff,	:	NO. 16-0010
-v-	:	
The Estate of VICENTE CAMACHO,	:	
Deceased,	:	
and MARTINA D. CAMACHO,	:	
Defendants.	:	

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 11, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 033 E 06 (formerly part of Lot 033 E 01), situated in Capital Hill, Saipan, Northern Mariana islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 033 E 01, the original of which was recorded on August 30, 1989, as Document no 89-2899, at the Office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, September 30, 2016, at the hour of 1:30p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 16th day of August, 2016:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

D&Q International Distributors
A TanHoldings Company

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

SALES & MARKETING COORDINATOR

- The successful candidate will report to the sales manager and provide support services for our sales and merchandising teams in Saipan, Micronesia and Pacific islands. Will liaise with our Guam based marketing manager and other management personnel.
- High school graduate required, ideally with further studies in marketing or business.
- Must be reliable, honest, self-starter with good organizational skills. Must be able to work independently and under pressure.
- Must be fluent in English. The ability to speak a second language a plus.
- Advanced computer skills required. Ideally with Sage or similar accounting software plus Microsoft Excel to an advanced level.
- Will need to provide computerized reports and market surveys in a timely manner.
- Must have own reliable transport. Will be reimbursed for use.
- At times may need to be available to work on weekends or after hours.

Interested applicants must submit an application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, no later than August 26th, 2016. Applications may also be sent to: info@dqsaipan.com.

The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment.
Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2016

Opening date: August 12, 2016 **Closing date: August 26, 2016**

Position: (1) Receptionist/Secretary I (Admin-Saipan)
(1) General Maintenance I (Tinian Airport)

Detailed information on the position description and qualifications for the above positions are available online at www.cpa.gov.mp or may be picked up and must be submitted at the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Terminal, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport during office hours (Mon.-Fri. (except holidays) 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).** The deadline for submission of all applications and required documents is no later than ***4:30 p.m., Friday, August 26, 2016 (ChST).***

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original police record not more than six (6) months old, copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants ages 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, a 10-year Criminal History Record Check and must be free of convictions for any felonies or violent misdemeanors, along with other 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

For additional information, please contact the Human Resources Office by email at evelyn.sablan@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

McGregor wins, wants Diaz in lightweight match

AP
Conor McGregor, left, punches Nate Diaz during their welterweight mixed martial arts bout at UFC 202 on Saturday, Aug. 20, 2016, in Las Vegas. McGregor won by split decision.

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Conor McGregor got his revenge. Now he wants a third fight on his terms.

McGregor evened the score in his rivalry with Nate Diaz by outpointing him Saturday night at UFC 202 in a rematch of their two-round welterweight thriller in March.

The two put on an action-packed fight in which McGregor came out strong and then hung on in a tiring, bloody slugfest. Two of the judges scored it 48-47 for McGregor, and the other had it 47-47.

McGregor immediately challenged Diaz to a third fight—but only if Diaz would come down to the lightweight division.

"Surprise, surprise! The king is back!" McGregor said. "If you want this trilogy, it's on my terms. I came up to 170, now you'll come back to 155 and we'll finish what we've started. I knew what I had to do this time around and I did it."

McGregor (20-3) forced the action in the opening round, landing multiple leg kicks to Diaz's lead leg and a straight left that knocked down Diaz (20-11).

The Irishman took down Diaz twice more in the second round, bloodying his nose and appearing to have total control of the fight.

"I could have gone in there and pressed, but I was patient," McGregor said.

The persistent Diaz found his footing later in the second, though, unleashing a flurry of strikes and knocking McGregor against the fence. Diaz continued to attack in the third and, for the final 90 seconds of the fourth, they stood in the center of the cage and exchanged blows.

"I knew he would have success early," Diaz said. "Just as I expected, he was going to slow down and I was going to speed up."

They traded punches again in the fifth, and neither gained an edge until the final 10 seconds, when Diaz secured a trip and landed a few final shots from on top before the bell rang.

"I came here to fight. I want No. 3, I gave him No. 2, so let's do it," Diaz said.

McGregor exacted revenge for a loss at UFC 196. McGregor, already the featherweight champ, was initially scheduled to face Rafael dos Anjos for the lightweight title, but dos Anjos pulled out due to injury and McGregor agreed to fight Diaz at welterweight on late notice.

Diaz's endurance was the difference in the first fight. McGregor pummeled Diaz with multiple shots in the first round, giving Diaz a bloody facial gash, but Diaz weathered the storm and countered with a few shots of his own near the end of the round. Then Diaz dominated the second round with accurate, well-timed boxing before finishing the exhausted McGregor with a rear naked choke.

They were supposed to battle again at welterweight at the landmark UFC 200, but that bout was canceled after McGregor announced his retirement and refused to meet with media. McGregor didn't end up retiring, but the disturbance got him and Diaz dropped from the card.

Instead, the anticipated rematch was set for UFC 202. The garrulous McGregor had promised to finish Diaz early this time around, and promotion for the fight included a bottle-throwing melee at a press conference Wednesday.

"My respect to the opponent," McGregor said. "You have to respect Nate and the style that he brings."

Earlier, Anthony Johnson landed an uppercut 13 seconds into the first round to knock out Glover Teixeira in the co-main event between top-ranked light heavyweights. Johnson (22-5) flattened Teixeira (25-5) with the shot, forcing the referee to call an early end to the fight. Johnson has 13th victories in his past 14 fights.

"I'm coming for you Daniel," Johnson said, speaking to current light heavyweight champion Daniel Cormier, who was seated near the cage.

Donald Cerrone (31-7) stopped Rick Story (19-9) in a battle of ranked welterweights.

NBA chooses New Orleans for 2017 All-Star Game

NEW ORLEANS—The NBA has decided to hold the 2017 All-Star Game in New Orleans after taking the midseason event out of North Carolina because of a state law that limits anti-discrimination protections for lesbian, gay and transgender people.

New Orleans, announced Friday as the new location of the game, replaces Charlotte, which was set to host the game until the NBA decided last month to move it elsewhere.

Unlike several other Southern states, Louisiana has not been swept up in legislative efforts to pass laws similar to that in North Carolina—a fact Gov. John Bel Edwards has touted while lobbying the NBA to bring its All-Star weekend to New Orleans.

"We embrace our rich cultural heritage and see our diversity as a virtue," Edwards wrote in a letter to NBA Commissioner Adam Silver in late July. "Should the NBA choose to bring the All-Star Game back to New Orleans in 2017, it will strongly reaffirm its commitment to communities that value fairness and inclusion."

The NBA's decision—and the economic boost it will bring—provides a timely dose of good news following disastrous flooding across large swaths of southeast Louisiana that has killed at least 13 people and damaged an estimated 40,000 homes, mostly around Baton Rouge. Much of the New Orleans metropolitan area has been spared from the flooding.

"While we move into the recovery phase of this disaster, I want to thank the NBA for the vote of confidence in our state to host this event and their support of the relief efforts currently underway," Edwards said.

This marks the third time New Orleans, which became an NBA city for the second time in 2002, has been selected to host the league's All-Star Game.

When the All-Star Game first came in 2008, the NBA spearheaded numerous community service projects aimed at helping neighborhoods hard hit by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. The NBA will be presented with similar opportunities next year to assist flooded communities within an hour's drive of New Orleans.

Indeed, the New Orleans Pelicans and the NFL's Saints, both owned by Tom Benson, already have begun deploying administrative staff to assist flood relief efforts while opening the teams' headquarters as a collection point for donations of basic supplies for flood victims.

"As we know, the NBA will engage thousands of local children and charities during this weekend," Benson said in written comments thanking the NBA for choosing New Orleans.

All-Star weekend also came to the Big Easy in 2014, when Pelicans forward and center Anthony Davis made his All-Star debut. Davis would play the All-Star Game in his home arena again if he is named to the Western Conference squad for a fourth straight season.

New Orleans, which has a history of hosting major sporting events, has seen its last two bids to host a Super Bowl come up short. It also bid unsuccessfully to host one of the NCAA Final Fours between 2017 and 2021. Those disappointments provided even more motivation for state and city officials to act decisively to lure the NBA All-Star Game after the league's decision to take it away from the initially designated host city.

A number of entertainment acts, including a Bruce Springsteen concert, have canceled North Carolina events because of its so-called HB2 law.

Louisiana hasn't enacted—or debated—a "bathroom bill" of the type passed in North Carolina. Edwards earlier this year issued an LGBT rights anti-discrimination order.

In the April order, the Democratic governor banned discrimination in state government based on sexual orientation and gender identity. State contracts also were required to comply, except contractors that are religious organizations. Edwards' anti-discrimination order was similar to orders enacted by two former Louisiana Democratic governors -- but he added language protecting against discrimination based on gender identity, a provision that protects transgender people.

Republican Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry's office has issued an opinion claiming that Edwards' order has "no binding legal effect" and exceeds the governor's authority. But the order hasn't been challenged in court, and Edwards has vowed to follow it. Landry's office also has joined 10 other states in a lawsuit filed in May against President Barack Obama's administration over its directive to U.S. public schools to let transgender students use the bathrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identity.

The Human Rights Campaign, a national civil rights group working on behalf of lesbian, gay and transgender people, applauded the NBA's decision to choose New Orleans.

"The NBA and Commissioner Adam Silver have sent a clear message to lawmakers in North Carolina and across the country that discrimination against LGBTQ people has consequences and will not be tolerated," HRC President Chad Griffin said in a statement. "New Orleans' explicit LGBTQ non-discrimination protections will ensure all NBA employees, players, and fans who participate in the All-Star Game are protected from discrimination."

The All-star Game is scheduled for Feb. 19, which falls during the first weekend of Mardi Gras parades. That weekend presents some logistical challenges for New Orleans in terms of policing and traffic control, but considerably less so than the following weekend, when the largest parades roll in the days leading up to Fat Tuesday, which is Feb. 28.

"The combination of NBA All-Star with the first weekend of Mardi Gras will provide our residents, visitors and NBA fans an even more special experience," Mayor Mitch Landrieu said.

Finnegan takes no-hitter into 7th, Reds beat Dodgers

CINCINNATI (AP)—Brandon Finnegan took a no-hitter into the seventh inning, Adam Duvall and Jose Peraza each hit home runs in returns to the lineup and the Cincinnati Reds beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 11-1 on Saturday night.

Adrian Gonzalez singled to center field leading off the seventh to break up Finnegan's no-hit bid, and that was the only hit against the 23-year-old lefty.

Finnegan (8-9) allowed two walks and had eight strikeouts, one short of tying his career high, while throwing 96 pitches over seven innings. He also doubled and scored twice while the Reds extended their winning streak to a season-high five games.

Finnegan did not return after the game was delayed in the middle of the seventh for 1 hour, 19 minutes because of rain.

Cincinnati had a season-high 18 hits, including three each from Peraza and Eugenio Suarez.

Dodgers starter Brett Anderson (0-2) allowed six runs in three innings before being pulled with a blister on his left index finger.

Cubs 9, Rockies 2

In Denver, Kris Bryant hit a long homer and drove in four runs, Ben Zobrist had three hits and also went deep, and Chicago routed Colorado.

Miguel Montero had three hits and drove in three for the Cubs, who spoiled the major league debut of Rockies starter Jeff Hoffman.

Trevor Cahill (3-3) got the win with 4 2/3 innings in relief of spot starter Mike Montgomery.

Mets 9, Giants 5

In San Francisco, Yoenis Cespedes hit two long home runs and an RBI double in his second game back from the disabled list, boosting Bartolo Colon and New York past San Francisco.

The Mets had lost five of six before topping the team that began the day leading the NL West. The Giants dropped to 11-22 since the All-Star break.

White Sox 6, Athletics 2

In Chicago, Chris Sale pitched eight scoreless innings for his first victory in 49 days, Jose Abreu homered and Chicago beat Oakland.

Sale (15-6) was the majors' first 14-game winner and the AL starter in the All-Star Game, but the lefty had gone 0-4 in six starts, interrupted by a five-day suspension for slicing up throwback uniforms he didn't want to wear. Sale allowed three hits and retired the last seven batters, five by strikeout, while throwing a season-high 120 pitches.

Yankees 5, Angels 1

In Anaheim, Luis Cessa pitched six scoreless innings to win his first major league start and help New York beat Los Angeles.

Brian McCann went 2 for 4 with two RBI and a run, Starlin Castro went 2 for 4 with two runs and Aaron Judge drove in two. Gary Sanchez hit his fifth home run in six games, a two-out solo homer in the first.

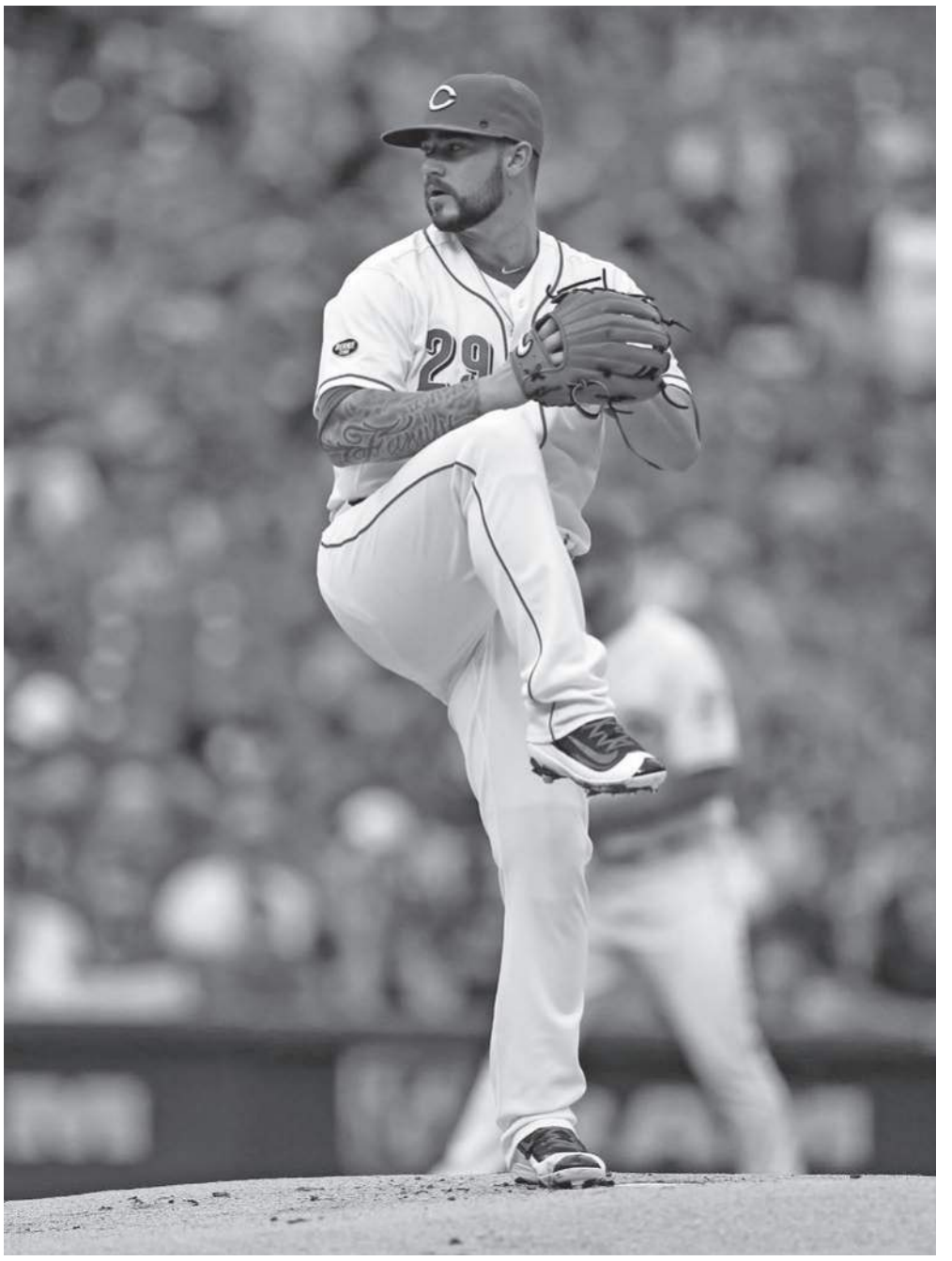
Los Angeles' Albert Pujols hit his 583rd home run in the ninth inning, tying former St. Louis teammate Mark McGwire for 10th on the career list.

Astros 12, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Jason Castro homered and drove in four runs in Houston's second straight blowout victory over struggling Baltimore.

Alex Bregman and George Springer also homered for the Astros. They beat Baltimore 15-8 on Friday night to snap a five-game losing streak.

Bregman got this rout started with a two-run homer in the first inning off Chris Tillman (15-5). Houston increased its lead to 6-0 in the third and went up 10-1 in the sixth.



AP

Cincinnati Reds starting pitcher Brandon Finnegan throws against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the first inning of a baseball game, Saturday, Aug. 20, 2016, in Cincinnati.

Diamondbacks 2, Padres 1

In San Diego, Robbie Ray struck out a career-high 13 and gave up just one hit in seven innings, pitching Arizona past San Diego.

There were only seven total hits in the game, four by Arizona. The Diamondbacks scored two unearned runs, helped by a pair of throwing errors by pitcher Clayton Richard (0-3).

Marlins 3, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Xavier Scruggs hit his first major league home run and David Phelps pitched six scoreless innings to help Miami beat Pittsburgh.

Miguel Rojas scored on an error in the third, and Ichiro Suzuki doubled down the right field line in the fourth—for his 3,008th hit in the majors to move into 28th place on the career list—ahead of Scruggs' shot into the bleachers in left field.

Phelps (7-6) allowed two hits and two walks with nine strikeouts in his fourth start of the season.

Mariners 8, Brewers 2

In Seattle, Felix Hernandez pitched eight strong innings, Mike Zunino homered and drove in three runs and Seattle sent Milwaukee to its sixth straight loss.

Hernandez (8-4) gave up two runs and seven hits, striking out eight and walking one to improve to 4-0 in seven starts since coming off the disabled list on July 20. Steve Cishek, who had lost his closer's role, pitched a perfect ninth.

Royals 10, Twins 0

In Kansas City, Alex Gordon homered twice and had a double, Ian Kennedy pitched eight sharp innings and Kansas City beat Minnesota to extend its winning streak to seven games.

The Royals' string is their best since they won seven straight in April 2015. The World Series champions have won 12 of 14 to move back into the AL wild-card race.

Gordon has homered five times in five games. He connected in the fourth inning and again in the fifth for his fourth career multihomer game.

Phillies 4, Cardinals 2

In Philadelphia, Cesar Hernandez homered, doubled and singled, and Jeremy Hellickson pitched seven strong innings in Philadelphia's 4-2 victory over St. Louis.

Maikel Franco had two hits, including a double and the winning RBI, and Aaron Altherr homered for the Phillies. They have hit home runs in 14 straight games.

Red Sox 3, Tigers 2

In Detroit, David Ortiz homered after being honored by the Tigers and Boston beat Detroit on a rainy night.

Ortiz was given a pregame tribute, then hit a two-run homer in the fifth inning.

James McCann and J.D. Martinez homered for the Tigers, who have lost 10 of 13.

The start was delayed 80 minutes by storms that moved in during the afternoon, and another heavy downpour interrupted the game for more than an hour after the fifth inning.

Nationals 11, Braves 9

In Atlanta, Ryan Zimmerman homered and had three hits in his return from the disabled list, and Washington used an eight-run fourth inning to take control before holding off Atlanta.

Daniel Murphy and Trea Turner hit homers in Washington's big fourth inning against Tyrell Jenkins (2-4). The Nationals trailed 3-1 before setting a season high for runs in an inning and taking a 9-3 lead.

Blue Jays 6, Indians 5

In Cleveland, Edwin Encarnacion homered, Roberto Osuna bounced back from a nightmarish outing to record the save and Toronto beat Cleveland.

Toronto was stunned Friday night on Tyler Naquin's game-ending inside-the-park home run off Osuna that gave the Indians a 3-2 victory.

Rays 8, Rangers 2

In St. Petersburg, Evan Longoria and Luke Maile homered, Jake Odorizzi won his fifth game since the All-Star break and Tampa Bay ended Texas' four-game winning streak.

Odorizzi (8-5) is 5-0 with a 1.64 ERA in seven starts since the All-Star break.

Adrian Beltre and Elvis Andrus had two hits each for the AL West-leading Rangers.

The Rays scored in each of the first two innings off starter A.J. Griffin (5-3). Matt Duffy drove in a run with a two-out single in the first, and Maile made it 2-0 with his first career home run in the second. Longoria's 28th homer made it 3-0 in the sixth.

Pujols ties McGwire for 10th spot on HR list

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Albert Pujols already had a text message waiting for him postgame from Mark McGwire after tying his former St. Louis Cardinals teammate for 10th on the career homer list.

But for Pujols, the milestone was spoiled by the outcome of the game.

Pujols hit his 583rd career homer, but Luis Cessa pitched six scoreless innings to win his first major league start and help the New York Yankees beat the Los Angeles Angels 5-1 on Saturday night.

Brian McCann went 2 for 4 with two RBI and a run, Starlin Castro went 2 for 4 with two runs and Aaron Judge drove in two. Gary Sanchez hit his fifth home run in six games in the first inning, a two-out solo homer to left field.

Pujols hit No. 583 in the ninth inning off Dellin Betances, pulling a long line drive to the left-field corner.

"I think it would have been a little bit more special if we had won," Pujols said. "But to tie with Mark is very special because he's a very close friend of mine. We stay in touch and he's a guy that always helps me out whenever I go through a slump and a guy that mentored me."

"He was always pulling for me from day one," Pujols added. "The whole reason I'm in the big leagues is because when he was in St. Louis he told (former manager Tony LaRussa), `You need to take this kid."

Cessa (3-0) allowed three hits, struck out five and walked one. He struggled just twice, giving up back-to-back two-out singles in the third and hitting Mike Trout in the sixth.

While Cessa admitted to pregame nerves, he said he felt relaxed after throwing the first pitch and even more so after the Yankees scored three runs in the first inning.

"I was more aggressive," Cessa said. "I could throw more fastballs and be more aggressive with everyone."

After giving up a single to Jefry Marte in the seventh, Cessa was relieved by Tyler Clippard, who nearly gave up a home run to C.J. Cron, but Brett Gardner dived into the stands in left to make the out.

"Right off the bat, I thought it was a home run," Girardi said. "And then he got closer and closer and I thought, `Maybe, maybe. Stay in here, stay in here.' Outstanding catch. That was a big out."

The good, the bad, and the ugly of the Rio Games

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Michael Phelps won more medals than anyone else, again. And then he said farewell, also again.

Usain Bolt kissed the finish line goodbye after enhancing his Olympic legacy. Simone Biles and Katie Ledecky delivered under the burden of enormous expectations. Two strangers went from rivals to forever-linked by a display of kindness, an entire island seemed to celebrate a tennis match, and a gold medalist scampered home to avoid legal issues after a robbery story unraveled.

And then the home team won soccer gold.

The Rio de Janeiro Olympics were not perfect.

But there were moments—some great, some dreadful and some downright ugly—that will not, and should not, be forgotten.

Here's a look:

MEDAL LEADERS

The U.S. dominated the medal count, a rare romp in a non-boycotted games. There's still more medals to win Sunday, but the margin of overall victory could be the most in a fully attended games in 68 years. Phelps won six medals, five of them gold, to increase his career haul to 23 Olympic titles and 28 medals overall. Ledecky and Biles each won five medals; Biles will carry the U.S. flag into the closing ceremony. And U.S. shooter Kim Rhode has now won a medal in six consecutive Olympics—and she might not be done.

BEST FINISH

Bolt kissing the finish line after his ninth and final Olympic gold—in nine final races—was a perfect ending. He ran the anchor leg of the 4x100-meter relay for Jamaica, won emphatically to become the third athlete ever with nine golds in track and field, and insists that this will be the end of his Olympic career.

"Nothing left to prove," Bolt said.

He's right.

"I am the greatest," he added.

Right again.

BEST ACT OF SPORTSMANSHIP

An easy pick.

In the women's 5,000-meter heat, Abbey D'Agostino of the U.S. and New Zealand's Nikki Hamblin—strangers before that day—were involved in a tumble. D'Agostino helped Hamblin up, encouraging her to finish the race. D'Agostino tore a knee ligament in the fall and obviously couldn't finish. Hamblin wound up finishing last of 17 in the 5,000 final, so neither left with a medal.

Instead, they got so much more.

"That girl is the Olympic spirit right there," Hamblin said of D'Agostino. "I've never met her before. Like I never met this girl before. And isn't that just so amazing?"

Yes, it is.

BIGGEST EMBARRASSMENT

Another easy pick, even in a games where an Egyptian was sent home after failing to shake an Israeli judo opponent's hand.

Ryan Lochte is a 12-time Olympic medalist, and the odds that he'll have a chance to ever swim for a 13th are as murky as some of the pools were in these Rio Games. Lochte's story that a robber put a gun to his head quickly unraveled, his three teammates who were companions that night all were left to answer legal questions after he scurried home, and more repercussions from the U.S. Olympic Committee are likely coming.

"It's traumatic to be out late with your friends in a foreign country—with a language barrier," read part of the apology that Lochte released on social media Friday.

BREAKOUT STAR

We asked. You voted.

Narrowing the list of potential candidates to four—Simone Manuel (four swimming medals), Joseph Schooling (beat Phelps for a gold in the pool), Monica Puig (whose tennis gold was Puerto Rico's first Olympic title in any sport) and Ibtihaj Muhammad (the barrier-breaking fencing medalist)—AP asked its Twitter followers to have a say in deciding this one.

The response was overwhelming, and one-sided: Puig is the breakout star of these games.

BEST COACH

Due respect to Mike Krzyzewski, Geno Auriemma, Martha Karolyi and the Japanese wrestling coach who found himself getting body-slammed twice in celebration by women's gold medalist Risako Kawai, this one goes to Ans Botha— the 74-year-old great-grandmother who guided South Africa's Wayde Van Niekerk to Olympic gold and a world record in the men's 400 sprint.

Her style is simple. When the smile goes away and the voice gets stern, it's time to get serious. Sort of like most great-grandmothers.

BEST BACK-AND-FORTH

When the U.S. women's soccer team was ousted by Sweden (and former U.S. coach Pia Sundhage), American goalkeeper Hope Solo raised eyebrows with her assessment of the match.

But her former coach had the perfect rebuttal.

"We lost to a bunch of cowards," Solo said.

"It's OK to be cowards if you win," Sundhage countered.

BEST BRAZILIAN MOMENT

How's this for a storybook ending for Brazil?

Soccer gold—and in most dramatic style, too.

Brazil vs. Germany, men's soccer, gold-medal matchup. Neymar gives the hosts a 1-0 lead, but the Germans tie it and ultimately it goes to penalty kicks to decide the Olympic champion.

Germany makes its first four.

So does Brazil.

Then Germany is stopped on its fifth, and the stage is set for Neymar—who else?—to set off a national celebration. His shot sails into the back of the net, Brazil wins and the roar could be heard all over Rio as Neymar collapsed on the field in a quivering mass of joyous tears.

Forget all the problems these games had. Forget how many Brazilians opposed them in the first place.

They got their perfect finish to an imperfect Olympics.

LEE

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Kofe, 6-0, 6-0, in the other Final Four pairing. Kofe settled for third place following a 4-6, 7-5, 10-6 victory over Song, while the CNMI's third entry in the division—Sean Lee—finished eighth in the field after bowing to Tahiti's Brendon Song in the consolation match, 1-6, 4-6.

Sean's sister, Carol, finished on top of the girls U16 singles anew after easing past Fiji's Vienna Kumar in the finals, 6-1, 6-2.

Carol, who took last year's U16 singles title after outlasting Palau's Ayana Rengiil, inched closer to her second straight championship in the division after ousting fellow CNMI player Tania Tan, 6-1, 6-2 and Tahiti's Naia Guitton, 6-0, 6-3, in the upper bracket of the draw. Carol dueled Guitton in the morning semis match and played back-to-back games yesterday as the former returned to the court in the afternoon to face Kumar. The Fiji player foiled an all-CNMI finals following a tough 6-3, 3-6, 10-6 triumph over Isabel Heras, who barged into the semis after stunning the fourth-ranked Ruby Coffin, also of Fiji, 6-1, 7-5. Heras went on to join Carol and Kumar in the Top 3 as the former defeated Guitton in the consolation match, 6-3, 6-4, while Tan finished sixth following her win over Vanuatu's Daisy Sipiti, 6-1, 6-2.

In other results, Asia Raulerson emerged as the highest finisher among the four CNMI players entered in the girls U14 singles. Raulerson placed fourth out of the 12 participants in the division after bowing to Vanuatu's Rosalie Molballeh in the consolation match. The Commonwealth player won the opening set, 7-6 (4), but Molballeh swept the last two, 6-3, 10-6, to make it to the Top 3 along with eventual champion Eleanor Schuster of Samoa and runner-up Lea Lamorelle of Tahiti.

Raulerson's fellow CNMI bets—Conatsu Kaga, Malika Miyawaki, and Maria Gregoire finished fifth, sixth, and eight respectively.

Conatsu's younger sister, Coume, had a better finish, rounding out fourth in the girls U12 singles, while Ji Min Woo and Seung Jin Paik ended up at No. 7 and 8 out of the 16 players in the boys U12 singles. In the boys U16 singles, Michel Ren placed ninth out of 16 entries, while Vincent Tudela took the No. 12 spot.

'CRANK'

From Page 28

for his kickboxing skills, Camacho opted out of a stand-up fight and wasted no time in attacking Hyun Joo and bringing him down to the canvas. Once he had the upper hand in position (behind Hyun Joo) Camacho unleashed a series of punches. The Korean managed to get out of trouble and stand up, however, not for long, as Camacho caught him again and threw more powerful strikes. This time, Hyun Joo was just trying to survive, using his hands for cover to avoid Camacho's punches instead of fighting back, leaving referee Alverick Alvarez without a choice, but to stop the match.

A visibly disappointed Hyun Joo looked at Alvarez, trying to plead his case, but the former later accepted the decision, shaking hands with Camacho. With the loss, the Korean dropped to a 1-3 mark (based on sherdog.com record).

Meanwhile, in the title bout and last fight of the night, Camp used his quickness and superior grappling skills to beat Jang.

Before bowing to Camp, Jang appeared to have the upper hand in the early goings of the first round, connecting a couple of kicks and body punches on the former. However, Camp retaliated in the final two minutes of the five-minute opening round when he pinned Jang down and threw punches and knees to the Korean's body.

Jang made it through the first round, but looked gassed out, so Camp attacked him early and when both fighters were again down the floor, the Spike 22 bet went behind the Korean and used his arms to lock the latter's neck. Jang tapped out, giving Camp the win via rear-naked choke just less than one minute gone by in Round 2.

With the victory, Camp now has a 7-4 record, four via submission. He kept the bantamweight title he stole from Trench Tech's Vince "The Clinch" Masga in April 2014 during the Rites of Passage 16: Unleashed. Jang, on the other hand, absorbed his first loss in five fights.

Beside Camp and Camacho's fights, three K-1 matches and nine MMA bouts took place in last weekend's competition and results will be reported in *Saipan Tribune* later this week.

NEYMAR'S

From Page 28

sailed into the net.

"Obviously this tournament had a special meaning for Brazil," Neymar said. "This is one of the happiest things that have happened to me."

Jubilant celebrations broke out around Rio, reminiscent of parties following the five World Cup championships won by this soccer-mad nation. Fireworks burst over the stadium, car horns blared and fans sang and tossed beer into the air.

As the team stood atop the medal podium, gold draped around their necks, tears streamed down the faces of fans as all of Maracana Stadium joined in belting out the national anthem.

The victory comes two years after an embarrassing 7-1 home loss to Germany's senior team in the World Cup semifinals. Brazil was also coming off a demoralizing elimination in the group stage of this year's Copa America and struggled in early group play in the Olympics.

Germany, playing with a young team that looked nothing like the World Cup-winning squad, made it hard for Brazil, hitting the crossbar three times in the first half. Neymar put Brazil ahead 1-0 with a superb free kick in the 26th minute—and Usain Bolt celebrated along with the raucous crowd. Neymar paid tribute to the fastest man in the world by flashing the Jamaican nine-time gold medalist's "To the World" pose on the pitch.

31 MEDALS: Allyson Felix and LaShawn Merritt are savvy track stars who've been around long enough to know that not everything always goes to plan.

Over the final 30 minutes of Saturday's topsy-turvy night at the Olympic track, both Americans came away with prizes they'd been wishing for all along.

Those prizes were both golds from the 4x400 relay teams, and the United States exited the final night of action at Olympic Stadium with 31 medals—the most it has taken in a non-boycotted Olympics since 1956, when both the world and track were very different places.

PRIZE MONEY: Singapore swimmer Joseph Schooling left Rio de Janeiro known as the man who defeated Michael Phelps. And as a millionaire.

In addition to winning the gold medal after beating Phelps with an Olympic record in the 100 meter butterfly, the 21-year-old Schooling also took home a reward of 1 million Singaporean dollars (about US $750,000) from his national Olympic committee.

Phelps returned home with more gold than Schooling, but less money. The American great earned $25,000 for each of his five gold medals and $15,000 for the silver, earning $140,000 from the U.S. Olympic Committee.

By the end of Friday, the USOC had spent about $1.8 million in prizes after 105 medals were won by its athletes.

Britain, second in the medal standings, did not award any prize money to its medalists.

Italy was ninth in the medal count by Friday, but with the equivalent of nearly $170,000 awarded to each gold medalist in Rio, it had already spent about $2.6 million in prizes with 25 medal winners. The amount paid for each medal was the same even for athletes in team sports.

US women grab 6th successive Olympic hoops championship

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Geno Auriemma and Diana Taurasi shared a long, emotional embrace. Mission accomplished.

The dominant U.S. women's basketball team did what was expected, winning a sixth consecutive Olympic gold medal and doing it in impressive fashion. In yet another rout, the U.S. dismantled Spain 101-72 on Saturday.

Taurasi and the Americans played nearly flawless basketball in Rio, and were never challenged. They have won 49 consecutive games in the Olympics with only one of those decided by single digits.

"It's amazing isn't it? I mean when you think, that's 20 years of 20 years," Auriemma said. "You know the first one was 96 and here we are 2016. It's mindboggling when you think about it what this team has been able to accomplish, this program of the USA Basketball program. There is such a level of expectation, there's such a level of respect for the people at the very top.

"We're doing stuff that may never be done again."

Even with that kind of sustained success by some very talented U.S. teams, this may be the best women's basketball squad ever assembled. The team won by nearly 40 points a game, but fell short of the record 102.4 points the 1996 team averaged.

But if this isn't the best ever, it's close.

Taurasi puts the 2016 group at the top of the list.

"I mean I'm not just saying talent-wise. I'm not saying margin of victory. I'm saying this is the most determined, unselfish team I've ever been on - hands down," the four-time gold medalist said.

There never really was any doubt that the U.S. would win the gold in Rio. The only question was by how much.

Still, closure to their journey Saturday had Auriemma and Taurasi both fighting back tears.

"I think it was a very emotional time. When you're around these players and you're around Sue (Bird)and Diana and Tamika (Catchings), and you know that this maybe their last and you're able to send them out, it's like graduating seniors back home," Auriemma said. "And at the same time, you've got three young players who've never been here before. They get to go home with their first gold medal ever.

"There's just a lot of emotions running through our team and running through our locker room."

Unlike their semifinal win over France when the Americans looked discombobulated for a half, the U.S. was more fluid offensively. It helped having Bird back in the lineup. The four-time gold medalist and team captain missed the semifinal game with a sprained right knee capsule. She wasn't 100 percent Saturday, but was good enough.

The U.S., which beat Spain by 40 in a preliminary round game, got off to a slow start and only led 21-17 after the first quarter. The Americans were up 27-24 in the second quarter before getting going.

Auriemma turned to something very familiar to him to spark the Americans.

The UConn coach put his five former Huskie players on the court at the same time for the first time in the Olympics and that group started the 16-3 run that blew it open. Breanna Stewart got the spurt started with two free throws. Taurasi then hit consecutive 3-pointers—her first points of the game—as the Americans scored 10 straight.

By the time Lindsay Whalen's layup just beat the halftime buzzer, the U.S. led 49-32 and Spain had just two baskets in the final 6:55 of the half. Whalen finished the game with 17 points, tied for the team lead with Taurasi.

Spain never threatened in the second half. Auriemma started the fourth quarter with Bird, Taurasi and Catchings on the court and the game in hand. The three four-time Olympians have had a tremendous impact on USA Basketball over the past 12 years. He took the trio out together for one final time with 5:44 left in the game.

Auriemma had said from the start this group was on a mission that is now complete.

Even with the loss, Spain earned its first Olympic medal in women's basketball. Serbia topped France for the Bronze. The Spaniards have been on the rise lately, also winning a silver medal at the 2014 world championship. They are hosting the 2018 worlds.

AP
United States' Maya Moore (7) drives to the basket over Spain's Laura Nicholls (4) during a women's gold medal basketball game at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Saturday, Aug. 20, 2016.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET
FIELD OF HEROES
15th Anniversary of September 11th
This community event will be an opportunity for family members to honor and support our Veterans/Military Personnel, Law Enforcement Officers, Fire and 1st Responders by purchasing a 3'x5' American flag ($20), in their honor. This community event will be hosted on all 3 of the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan, Tinian and Rota.)
All proceed will go towards providing local support for our Veterans, Military Personnel, Law Enforcement Officers, Fire and 1st Responders in dealing with Post Traumatic Stress.
Dates to Remember:
Monday, September 5th - Sites set up
Tuesday, September 6th - Opening Ceremony
Sunday, September 11th - 9/11 Memorial Ceremony
Tuesday, September 13th - Closing Ceremony
Flags will be given to sponsored families after the closing ceremony.
Field of Heroes Site:
Saipan - CPA Airport Field
Tinian - Fiesta Grounds
Rota - Benjamin T. Manglona International Airport
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McGregor wins, wants Diaz in lightweight match

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

US women grab 6th successive Olympic hoops championship

PAGE 27

Lee, Schorr clinch singles titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Carol Lee and Robbie Schorr handed the CNMI two singles championships after prevailing in their respective title games in the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships yesterday in Lautoka, Fiji.

Schorr took the boys U14 singles crown after surviving Tahiti's Vaitei Molinier in an extended finale. The top-ranked CNMI bet won the opening set of the title game, 6-2, but failed to close out the championship game early when the No. 3 Molinier pulled off a 7-6 (1) triumph in the second. With the finale in a deadlock, Schorr and Molinier went through a super-tiebreaker third set with the Commonwealth player winning, 10-5.

The 14-year-old Schorr moved into the finals after eliminating fellow CNMI representative Ken Song in the semifinals last Saturday, 6-1, 6-1. Molinier also needed only two sets to advance to the title match as he dominated Fiji's Kelese

See LEE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee, seen here getting ready to serve during a Junior ITF event on Saipan, defended her girls U16 singles title in the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji yesterday.

'Crank,' Camp top Korean foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Trench Tech's Frank "The Crank" Camacho and Spike 22 Guam's Ricky Camp lived up to their lofty billing in the Rites of Passage 20: Conquer after making short work of their respective opponents last Friday at The Warehouse.

Camacho, who dueled Team Korea's Hyun Joo Kim in one of the two featured main events in the weekend competition, scored a TKO win (punches) at the 3:17 mark of the first round of their lightweight bout. Camp, on the other hand, stopped Korean Top Team's Won Jun Jang just 43 seconds into the second round of the other main event fight to defend his bantamweight belt.

With the victory, Camacho improved his record to 19-4, increasing his number of wins via TKO to 15. The triumph also allowed the Trench Tech bet to bounce back from a loss (to Korean foe in Han Seul Kim) in PXC 54 last month.

Up again against a much taller opponent that is known

See 'CRANK' on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Frank "The Crank" Camacho, right, holds down Korea's Hyun Joo Kim during their bout in the Rites of Passage 20: Conquer last Friday at The Warehouse.

Neymar's golden kiss gives host Brazil first Olympic title

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—With a kiss of the ball and an unforgettable kick, Brazil's biggest soccer star gave the Olympic host its biggest moment of the games.

Brazil won its first Olympic gold medal in soccer Saturday with a dramatic penalty kick by Neymar to defeat Germany, sending the nation into a frenzy after a 1-1 (5-4 shootout) victory.

Before the decisive shot, Neymar picked up the ball and kissed it before placing it on the penalty spot. With a stutter step and a smooth kick, he calmly sent a shot into the top corner and fell to his knees before being mobbed by his teammates.

"That's it," Neymar said. "We made history."

It was a victory that was about more than soccer for a nation that desperately needed something to celebrate. Brazil had been battered by recession, political scandal, health scares over polluted water and the Zika virus and questions over whether it could pull off hosting the Olympics.

All the troubles were forgotten when Neymar's kick

See NEYMAR'S on Page 26

AP
Brazil's Neymar kisses the ball before scoring the decisive penalty kick during the final match of the men's Olympic football tournament at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Saturday Aug. 20, 2016. Brazil won the gold medal on penalty shootout.

MEDAL COUNT

COUNTRIES	G	S	B	T
UNITED STATES	43	37	36	116
GREAT BRITAIN	27	22	17	66
CHINA	26	18	26	70
RUSSIA	17	17	19	53
GERMANY	17	10	14	41
JAPAN	12	8	21	41
FRANCE	9	17	14	40
KOREA	9	3	9	21
AUSTRALIA	8	11	10	29
ITALY	8	11	7	26
NETHERLANDS	8	6	4	18
HUNGARY	8	3	4	15
SPAIN	7	3	4	14
BRAZIL	6	6	6	18
JAMAICA	6	3	2	11
KENYA	5	6	1	12
CROATIA	5	3	2	10
CUBA	5	2	4	11
NEW ZEALAND	4	9	5	18
CANADA	4	3	15	22
KAZAKHSTAN	3	5	9	17
COLOMBIA	3	2	3	8
IRAN	3	1	4	8
GREECE	3	1	2	6
ARGENTINA	3	1	0	4

As of 5:00 p.m. August 21, 2016

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